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On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

Opposition Statement to HB 3076

I strongly oppose HB 3076, which directs the Oregon Department of Justice to study the establishment of a state gun dealer licensing program. While public safety is a critical concern, this bill introduces unnecessary bureaucracy, imposes financial burdens, and duplicates existing federal regulations without clear benefits.

1. Redundant Regulation

Federal law already requires firearms dealers to obtain a Federal Firearms License (FFL) and comply with strict background checks, record-keeping, and oversight by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). A state-level licensing program would create unnecessary redundancy, increasing costs and compliance hurdles for businesses without improving enforcement.

2. Financial and Administrative Burden

The establishment of a state licensing program would require significant state resources to implement, manage, and enforce. With Oregon already facing financial constraints, taxpayer dollars should not be spent duplicating federal efforts when those funds could be used to address pressing public safety concerns like law enforcement staffing and crime prevention initiatives.

3. Harm to Small Businesses

Small and independent firearms dealers would bear the brunt of additional licensing fees, compliance costs, and administrative burdens. This could force some dealers out of business, reducing consumer access to legal firearms and shifting sales to unregulated or out-of-state sources.

4. Ineffective Public Safety Measures

There is no clear evidence that a state-level licensing program would reduce crime or prevent illegal firearm sales beyond what federal regulations already accomplish. Instead of creating redundant laws, efforts should focus on enforcing existing regulations, addressing illegal gun trafficking, and improving mental health resources to prevent violence.

5. Potential Legal Challenges

A state-run licensing program may face legal challenges due to federal preemption, which could lead to costly litigation. Oregon should avoid enacting policies that could invite unnecessary legal battles while failing to achieve meaningful improvements in

public safety.

For these reasons, I urge legislators to oppose HB 3076 and instead prioritize initiatives that effectively combat crime, support law enforcement, and ensure responsible firearm ownership without adding undue burdens to lawful businesses and taxpayers.