

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3076 (2025), which proposes the establishment of a state-based licensing and regulation program for gun dealers in Oregon. While I understand the intent to address public safety, this legislation is an unnecessary and burdensome overreach that undermines the rights of law-abiding citizens and businesses without effectively addressing the root causes of gun-related crime.

First, Oregon gun dealers are already subject to rigorous federal oversight through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The Federal Firearms License (FFL) process requires background checks, compliance with strict regulations, and renewal every three years. Adding a redundant layer of state licensing duplicates efforts, wastes taxpayer resources, and does little to enhance safety beyond what federal law already achieves. Seventeen states may have similar laws, but Oregon's existing framework, combined with federal enforcement, is sufficient to regulate responsible dealers.

Second, this bill threatens the livelihoods of small businesses, particularly in rural communities where gun shops often operate on thin margins. Additional licensing fees, annual reporting, inventory tracking, and security mandates will impose significant financial and administrative burdens. These costs could force lawful dealers out of business, reducing access for hunters, sport shooters, and others who rely on these establishments—ironically, the very people who responsibly exercise their Second Amendment rights.

Third, the assumption that more regulations on dealers will curb illegal gun trafficking is flawed. Criminals rarely obtain firearms through licensed dealers; they exploit black markets, theft, or straw purchases—issues this bill does not meaningfully address. Instead of punishing law-abiding businesses, the state should focus on enforcing existing laws and targeting actual sources of crime. Data from the Oregon Capital Chronicle (January 16, 2025) notes a 172% rise in firearm homicides over the past decade, but there's no evidence that licensed dealers are the primary drivers of this trend.

Finally, HB 3076 risks eroding constitutional freedoms. The right to keep and bear arms is enshrined in both the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions, and excessive regulation of dealers indirectly restricts access for law-abiding citizens. This bill sets a precedent for further encroachments on individual liberties under the guise of safety, a slippery slope we cannot afford to start down.

I urge you to reject HB 3076 and instead pursue solutions that address criminal behavior directly, rather than burdening those who operate within the law.

Oregonians deserve policies that respect their rights, support local businesses, and focus on real threats—not symbolic measures that overcomplicate an already

regulated industry.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I trust you will prioritize the interests of your constituents in this decision.

Sincerely,

Matthew Chaisson