

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

I am writing to formally oppose House Bill 3076 (2025), which mandates a Department of Justice study into a state-based gun dealer licensing program. While I acknowledge the objective of improving public safety, I firmly believe this legislation is misguided. It risks overburdening law-abiding businesses, misdirects resources from genuine threats, and sets a troubling precedent for individual rights all without delivering measurable results. Allow me to outline my position with clarity and conviction.

First, Oregon's licensed firearms dealers already operate under robust federal regulation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The existing framework mandatory background checks, stringent compliance standards, and triennial license renewals ensures accountability. Directing the DOJ to explore additional state oversight duplicates an effective system, squandering taxpayer funds and administrative effort. The priority should be enforcing current laws and targeting illicit activity, not layering bureaucracy on a functioning structure.

Second, the economic consequences of this bill, even at the study phase, signal trouble for Oregon's small businesses. Rural gun shops, like those in Deschutes County, are not corporate giants but hardworking enterprises supporting local livelihoods. Should this study lead to new licensing requirements or fees, it could impose crippling costs, jeopardizing their survival. These dealers serve law-abiding citizens hunters, sportsmen, and homeowners who rely on them. Undermining these businesses weakens our communities and punishes the wrong people.

Third, HB 3076 fails to confront the real drivers of gun crime. The Oregon Capital Chronicle reports a significant rise in firearm homicides, a pressing issue demanding action. Yet, licensed dealers are not the source illegal markets, theft, and unregulated transactions fuel this violence. A study aimed at further regulating lawful commerce sidesteps the problem entirely. I urge a sharper focus: deploy resources to dismantle criminal networks, not to scrutinize those already compliant. Anything less is a distraction from the fight that matters.

Finally, this bill raises serious concerns about personal liberty. The right to bear arms, enshrined in both the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions, is non-negotiable. As a citizen committed to protecting my family, I view HB 3076's study as the first move in a broader effort to restrict access for the law-abiding. Incremental overreach begins with steps like this, and I stand resolute against any erosion of our foundational freedoms. Oregonians deserve policies that respect their rights, not test their limits. I respect your responsibility to serve this state and trust you'll weigh these points with the seriousness they demand. HB 3076, even as a preliminary measure, misses the mark. I strongly recommend rejecting it in favor of solutions that tackle crime directly, support our businesses, and uphold our liberties. Oregon's strength lies in its

people—let's keep it that way.

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