



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: March 16, 2025

TO: Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan,
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Andrea Bateman, MD, FAAP
Board Director of the Oregon Pediatric Society

SUBJECT: Support for House Bill 3076 – Firearm Dealer Licensing

My name is Andrea Bateman, and I am a parent and a pediatrician in Bend. On behalf of the Oregon Pediatric Society, the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we ask your support for HB 3076, which would license state firearm dealers.

Firearm violence takes an unacceptable number of lives each year in the United States, with dramatic increases over the past decade. In Oregon, an average of 625 people die, and 719 are wounded, by firearms annually. Our state's homicide rate has surged by a staggering 172% over the past decade. Between 2017 and 2021, over 26,000 firearms used in homicides and other crimes were recovered in Oregon. Alarmingly, most traced crime guns in Oregon originated from in-state dealers. Of those traced to a known dealer, 75% were first purchased in Oregon.

Gun trafficking and straw purchasing deliberately bypass federal and state background check laws, fueling the illegal gun market. In 2023, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) inspected only 6.6% of active Federal Firearm License (FFL) holders nationwide. Oregon has the fourth-lowest ratio of ATF field officers to FFLs, meaning that the average gun dealer in our state is inspected only once every ten years. If federal laws were sufficient and effectively enforced, we would not need to act at the state level. However, the ATF has failed to provide adequate oversight, leaving Oregonians vulnerable.

Sixteen states, including California and Washington, have implemented state-level dealer licensing requirements. These measures work. Data shows that state gun dealer licensing and inspections result in:

- A **64% reduction in gun trafficking**
- A **50% reduction in gun homicides**

To address this public safety crisis, Oregon must implement a state licensing system for all gun dealers. This licensing system would include rules that also align with good



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business practices. Shouldn't gun dealers be required to train their staff, properly inventory and securely store their merchandise, and follow responsible sales practices?

The evidence is clear: crime guns overwhelmingly originate from the gun industry itself, particularly from a small number of irresponsible dealers. Weak federal regulations have resulted in minimal oversight and even weaker enforcement. Oregon has an opportunity to lead by enacting common-sense policies that will curb trafficking and save lives.

We cannot afford to wait. We urge you to support HB3076 to ensure that Oregon takes meaningful action to reduce gun violence in our communities.

Thank you.