

Submitter: Andy Harris
On Behalf Of: Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076
Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallen, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Dr Andy Harris, and I'm speaking for Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility in support of HB 3076.

We believe most gun dealers in Oregon are honest business people. It's the minority who deal in stolen guns that compel us to testify. As physicians and healthcare professionals, we treat the victims of gun violence.

Shootings and homicides in Portland and Salem have more than doubled since 2018. We must stop the flow of illegal guns being used for crime in our communities. A study published in American Journal of Public Health found that "state licensing and authorized inspection of gun dealers were associated with lower homicide rates."
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24922158/>

Today, the average firearm dealer in Oregon is inspected only once every 10 years by the ATF. Dealers who are found to have significant violations are not being shut down. The ATF enforcement capacity, already stretched thin, is being gutted by the Trump administration.

A great many Oregon businesses, including restaurants and nail salons, are licensed and regulated for public safety. Arguably no businesses are more critical to public safety than those that sell guns.

The point is that firearm dealers play a crucial role in theft prevention. Dealers need to be held accountable if they traffic in stolen guns.

Gun dealer licensing has been passed by 17 states. Oregon PSR urges this committee to pass HB 3076, a vital step to reduce gun deaths and make our communities safer.

Thank you.

Andy Harris, MD