

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

While HB 3076 may be presented as a reasonable step toward enhancing public safety, it represents an overreach of government authority that unduly burdens law-abiding firearm dealers, infringes on Second Amendment rights, and fails to address the root causes of gun violence.

1. Unnecessary Burden on Small Business Firearm dealers. Many of whom are small, family-owned businesses, would face additional financial and administrative burdens under HB 3076. Licensing fees, compliance costs, and potential inspections could strain their operations, particularly in rural areas where profit margins are slim. This risks driving legitimate dealers out of business, reducing access to firearms for law-abiding citizens exercising their constitutional rights, without clear evidence that such measures reduce crime.

2. Duplication of Federal Oversight. The federal government already regulates firearm dealers through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), requiring them to hold a Federal Firearms License (FFL). Adding a state-level licensing requirement duplicates existing regulations, creating redundant bureaucracy. Oregon's gun dealers are already subject to background checks, record-keeping mandates, and ATF inspections. HB 3076 fails to demonstrate why federal oversight is insufficient, instead layering on costs and complexity without proportional benefits.

3. Lack of Evidence-Based Impact. Proponents may claim HB 3076 enhances public safety, but there's little empirical evidence that additional dealer licensing reduces gun violence. Criminals often obtain firearms through illegal means—straw purchases, theft, or the black market—not from licensed dealers. The bill targets a law-abiding group rather than addressing actual crime vectors, such as enforcement against illegal trafficking or mental health interventions. Without data showing a clear link between dealer licensing and reduced violence, this is a solution in search of a problem.

4. Potential for Arbitrary Enforcement. Vague or overly broad regulations could lead to inconsistent enforcement, where dealers face penalties based on subjective interpretations by state officials. The bill's referral to Ways and Means suggests resource allocation, but underfunding could result in selective enforcement, targeting smaller dealers while letting larger ones slide. This undermines fairness and risks political weaponization of the licensing process against certain regions or businesses.

5. Economic and Cultural Harm to Oregon. Oregon has a strong tradition of outdoor recreation, including hunting and shooting sports, supported by local firearm dealers. HB 3076's added regulations could shrink this industry, costing jobs and tax revenue while alienating a significant portion of the state's population. It prioritizes urban safety concerns over the needs and rights of rural communities, deepening

cultural divides.

HB 3076 is a well-intentioned but flawed proposal that punishes law-abiding dealers instead of tackling the real drivers of gun violence. It redundantly overlaps with federal law, threatens constitutional rights, and imposes economic hardship without proven benefits. Oregon lawmakers should reject this bill and focus on targeted, evidence-based solutions—like cracking down on illegal gun trafficking or improving mental health resources—that address crime without burdening legitimate commerce and individual freedoms.