

Oregon HB 3076, while framed as a study into gun dealer licensing, poses a significant threat to the rights and well-being of marginalized individuals within our state. This bill, by initiating a process that could lead to increased regulatory burdens on firearm dealers, will disproportionately impact those already facing systemic barriers to exercising their Second Amendment rights and ensuring their personal safety.

The concept of 'undue burden' is central to the opposition. This bill lays the groundwork for a potential licensing system that will inevitably add layers of bureaucratic complexity and cost to the legal acquisition of firearms. For marginalized communities, including low-income individuals, rural residents, and those facing language barriers, these added hurdles will create insurmountable obstacles. Small, independent gun dealers, often located in rural areas or serving specific communities, will face increased operational costs and potential closure, limiting access for those who rely on them.

For marginalized individuals, the right to self-defense is not a theoretical concept; it is a matter of survival. Domestic violence survivors, LGBTQ+ individuals facing hate crimes, and communities of color targeted by systemic violence rely on the ability to protect themselves. This bill threatens to undermine their ability to do so. Increased licensing requirements, background check delays, and potential dealer closures will create a climate where those most vulnerable are left even more exposed.

Furthermore, this bill disregards the reality that criminals do not abide by licensing regulations. By creating additional barriers for law-abiding citizens, we are not preventing crime; we are merely disarming the vulnerable. This will not make Oregon safer. Instead, it will exacerbate existing disparities and create a two-tiered system of safety, where those with the means and resources can navigate the regulatory maze, while those without are left at the mercy of circumstance.

The study proposed by HB 3076 will inevitably lead to recommendations for increased

regulation, which, in turn, will be used to justify further restrictions on firearm access. This is a slippery slope that will ultimately erode the Second Amendment rights of all Oregonians, but will have the most devastating impact on those who rely on these rights for their safety and security.

We urge the committee to consider the unintended consequences of this legislation. Instead of focusing on measures that create barriers for law-abiding citizens, we should prioritize policies that address the root causes of violence, such as mental health support, community-based violence intervention programs, and targeted enforcement against those who commit crimes with firearms. We must ensure that all Oregonians, regardless of their background or circumstance, have the means to protect themselves and their families.