

Submitter: Marc Cook
On Behalf Of:
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Creating a gun dealer licensing system in Oregon could be seen as redundant for several reasons. First, federal firearms licensees (FFLs) are already subject to stringent federal regulations and oversight by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Adding a state-level licensing requirement could impose additional administrative and financial burdens on smaller FFLs, potentially driving them out of business. This could reduce the number of legal avenues for purchasing firearms, pushing individuals towards private gun transfers, which are less regulated and harder to track.

Moreover, the increased regulatory burden might inadvertently encourage the growth of a dangerous black market. Criminals who are unable to obtain firearms through legal channels may turn to illegal means, exacerbating the problem of untraceable and unregulated firearms in the community. This could undermine public safety efforts and make it more challenging for law enforcement to track and prevent gun-related crimes.

Additionally, without a clear mechanism or budget for enforcing the gun dealer licensing system in Oregon, the effectiveness of the system could be compromised. Proper funding and a well-defined enforcement strategy are crucial for ensuring compliance and addressing violations effectively. Without these, the system will struggle to achieve its intended goals of enhancing oversight and safety which again is not needed.

Regarding statistics on FFLs going out of business, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), when a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) discontinues business, they must send their firearms transaction records to the National Tracing Center (NTC). The NTC receives an average of 1.2 million out-of-business records per month. This indicates a significant number of FFLs going out of business regularly.

The ATF's Out-of-Business Records Center was established to maintain records of FFLs who have gone out of business. This centralization helps in firearms tracing and provides investigative leads in the fight against violent crime and terrorism. Another way to look at it, less FFLs.....less info on gun owners on the books. This is just one example of how backwards of an approach this is. We know where all of the guns are already with the law abiding citizens? Yes. Criminals? Nope!

In summary, while the intention behind creating a state-level gun dealer licensing

system may be to enhance oversight and safety, it could have unintended consequences that counteract these goals by impacting smaller FFLs and encouraging illegal gun transfers. It will most likely hinder law abiding citizens from purchasing firearms with undue burden. Think of it this way, if you wanted to exercise your freedom of speech, but were required to get a permit and pay a fee before you could speak. Citizens that follow the law have enough oversight and fees already. I oppose this bill. Respectfully submitted, Marc Cook