

Submitter: Josh Poling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

My name is Josh Poling, and I strongly oppose HB 3075 and HB 3076. Increasing regulations on Oregon's law-abiding citizens and small businesses is not the solution to reducing firearm-related violence and crime.

A lifelong Oregonian, I operate five state-licensed pawnshops under the business name Cash Connection, each with its own Type 02 Federal Firearms License (FFL). I also serve as Vice President of the Oregon Pawnbroker Association and work closely with the ATF's Area Supervisor, the Oregon State Police Firearm Instant Check Systems Manager, and numerous local law enforcement agencies. Despite their direct involvement in firearm regulations, none of these key stakeholders have been consulted for the drafting of these proposed bills.

If the goal is to reduce firearm-related violence, save lives, and improve public safety, why are we not involving those with the experience and perspective to create meaningful change? The supporters of these bills do not understand the legal firearm transfer process or the existing regulations that govern it. The proposed changes in HB 3075 and HB 3076 would not improve public safety. Instead, they would:

- Reduce the number of firearm-related businesses
- Decrease legal firearm transfers
- Limit firearm records available to law enforcement
- Impose unnecessary financial burdens on law-abiding citizens

Community safety is very important to me. My children attend public schools, and my wife works in public schools. If I believed my business jeopardized public safety, I would not be in this industry. I support responsible and effective changes to firearm regulations, but I do not believe licensed dealers or legal transfers are the problem. HB 3075 and HB 3076 fail to provide real solutions. If Oregon lawmakers truly want to improve public safety, they should:

- Involve key stakeholders—ATF, OSP, local law enforcement, and FFL holders—in drafting firearm legislation
- Ensure regulating agencies receive proper funding to enforce existing laws
- Enact tougher penalties for firearm-related crimes and illegal firearm ownership
- Strengthen communication between ATF, OSP, local law enforcement, and firearm dealers

As a pawnbroker, it is crucial to understand how these bills address firearm redemptions—not sales, but the reclaiming of a firearm you already own. In my business, it is common for Oregonians to use firearms as collateral to bridge financial gaps. Unlike traditional financial institutions, pawnbrokers offer a unique financial option while ensuring:

- A record of every transaction is provided to law enforcement daily
- Safe storage for tens of thousands of firearms at any given time
- A background check is required before a firearm can be redeemed from loan

With the proposed legislation, several important questions need to be addressed:

- Will a purchase permit be required to redeem your firearm from a pawnbroker?
- Will additional financial burdens be placed on customers, potentially eliminating the benefits these transactions provide?
- Will the long-standing process for firearm redemptions become so costly and burdensome that it is no longer viable? Removing pawning as an option, pushing law-abiding citizens toward predatory or unlawful alternatives to resolve their financial needs?

As a key stakeholder, I am committed to supporting meaningful changes that enhance safety for Oregon's law-abiding citizens. However, these bills are unnecessary, costly, and will likely increase illegal and undocumented firearm transfers. Rather than imposing broad regulations, policymakers should focus on enforcing existing laws and collaborating with those who best understand firearm safety and crime prevention. A stakeholder-driven approach will protect both public safety and constitutional rights while ensuring a balanced, effective path forward.