

Submitter: Diane Peterson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

I support HB 3076 because we need stronger oversight of gun dealers to stop the flow of guns into our communities for use in crimes. States with gun dealer licensing have reduced gun trafficking by 70% and gun homicides by 36%. 15 states have already enacted this policy. It's time Oregon held the gun industry to the same standards as other businesses.

We are only asking for basic security regulations and best business practices to be implemented. Because when more than 26,000 crime guns were recovered in Oregon in a 5-year period, we have a problem that must be addressed. In 2023, more guns were recovered in crimes in Portland than Seattle or Oakland.

Restaurants in Oregon have TWO unannounced inspections by the state each year to ensure compliance with sanitation and safety rules. Why is it then, that gun dealers in Oregon have ZERO state regulation and may or may not get even one annual inspection by the ATF? Only 34 of Oregon's more than 2,000 gun dealers were inspected by the ATF for compliance in 2023. Even the ATF agrees that they're not able to do their jobs. Why on earth are we allowing the deadliest industry to go unregulated?

The research shows that when inspections do happen, almost half the time, significant violations are found. Opponents often say that we need to enforce the laws already in place. I agree, we do need this, but the agency responsible for inspecting licensed dealers says they are unable to. This is why we need a state-level solution.

While most of Oregon's licensed gun dealers are doing the right thing, the current mechanism to hold bad dealers accountable is broken. HB 3076 isn't about punishing anyone, it is empowering our law enforcement to hold accountable the dealers that break the law.

Furthermore, this doesn't impact the second amendment, which is intact in the US and Oregon constitution. Neither will it impact responsible, licensed gun dealers who are operating according to the law. This is about reducing the current enormous flow of crime guns into our communities. Responsible, law-abiding FFLs don't want their inventory ending up in crime scenes. We are asking for their help in ending preventable gun tragedies.

Oregon lawmakers can solve this problem, save lives, and prevent injury and trauma

by passing HB3076 on state gun dealer licensing.