

**TO:** Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee  
*Oregon House Committee on the Judiciary*

**FROM:** Tim Carey, JD  
*Law and Policy Advisor, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions*

**DATE:** March 20, 2025

**RE:** HB 3076 Relating to Gun Dealer Licenses

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My name is Tim Carey, and I am a Law and Policy Advisor at the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. My testimony is offered in my individual capacity as an expert in gun violence prevention and does not represent the views of Johns Hopkins University. Given the promise gun dealer licensing shows in reducing channels of guns to criminal activity, I support the favorable passage of House Bill 3076.

Research demonstrates that firearm dealers breaking the law are major channels of trafficked and straw purchased guns, which are among the most common methods of diverting guns for use in crime.<sup>i, ii</sup> Some of these cases involve thousands of trafficked guns by the same federally licensed gun dealer. In many cases, dealers linked to large numbers of crime guns maintain their federal license because the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) lacks the resources to meaningfully investigate and follow up on violations.<sup>iii, iv</sup>

As an illustration, the ATF was only able to inspect 5% of over 136,000 firearms dealers in 2022, found violations in half of those inspections, and only revoked licenses from 1% of those dealers.<sup>v</sup> If the University of Oregon only checked the grades of 1,000 of over 20,000 undergraduate students, found 500 of them to be failing, and only intervened with 5 of them, you would not trust that institution with your children. So why do we trust these dealers with deadly weapons?

It doesn't have to be this way. Johns Hopkins research has shown that states with their own strong regulations and oversight of firearms dealers have lower rates of firearms being diverted for criminal use than states lacking those regulations.<sup>vi</sup> Research by the University of Pennsylvania found that, after adjusting for other factors, states with firearm licensing and inspections had firearm homicide rates that were only half as high as states that lacked state-level regulation and oversight.<sup>vii</sup>

A growing number of states also recognize the life-saving impact of firearm dealer licensing. To date, 17 states and Washington, DC already have some form of similar laws.<sup>viii</sup> It is time for Oregon to join them.

The data is clear: Gun dealers won't police themselves. Firearm dealer licensing can limit gun trafficking and straw purchasing that funnel firearms to criminal actors. As an expert in gun violence and the means to address it, I urge you to invest in safety and accountability by voting in favor of HB 3076.

Sincere Regards,

Tim Carey

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<sup>i</sup> Braga AA, Wintemute GJ, Pierce GL, Cook PJ, Ridgeway G. Interpreting the Empirical Evidence on Illegal Gun Market Dynamics. *Journal of Urban Health*, 2012; DOI 10.1007/s11524-012-9681-y.

<sup>ii</sup> Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. [\*National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment \(NFCTA\): Firearms Trafficking Investigations - Volume Three – Parts III and IV\*](#). USDOJ, April 2024.

<sup>iii</sup> Inspector General of the United States Department of Justice. *Inspections of Firearm Dealers by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives*. Report I-2004-2005. Washington, DC, July 2004.

<sup>iv</sup> Braga AA, Gagliardi PL. "Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearm Traffickers: Raising Operational Effectiveness by Lowering Enforcement Obstacles," pages 143-156 in *Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis*, Daniel W. Webster and Jon S. Vernick, Eds. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/infographics/fy-2022-numbers-ffl-infographic>

<sup>vi</sup> Webster DW, Vernick JS. "Spurring Responsible Firearm Sales Practices through Litigation: The Impact of New York City's Lawsuits Against Gun Dealers on Interstate Gun Trafficking," p. 123-32. Webster DW, Vernick JS, Eds. *Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.

<sup>vii</sup> Irvin N, Rhodes K, Cheney R, Wiebe D. Evaluating the Effect of State Regulation of Federally Licensed Firearm Dealers on Firearm Homicide. *American Journal of Public Health*, 2014 ;104(8):1384–1386. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2014.301999.

<sup>viii</sup> Gun dealers. GIFFORDS. (2025, January 22). <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/gun-sales/gun-dealers/>.