

Submitter: Jacob Cosler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 3076, which proposes a study on establishing a state gun dealer licensing program. While understanding the intent to enhance public safety, I have concerns about the necessity and implications of this measure.

1. Redundancy with Federal Licensing

Oregon gun dealers are already required to obtain a Federal Firearms License (FFL) from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), which involves rigorous background checks, record-keeping requirements, and compliance with federal regulations. Implementing a state-level licensing program may duplicate existing federal oversight without providing additional benefits.

2. Financial and Administrative Burden

Establishing and maintaining a state licensing program would entail significant costs for both the state and gun dealers. These expenses could strain state resources and impose financial hardships on small business owners, potentially leading to reduced economic activity and job losses within the state.

3. Effectiveness in Enhancing Public Safety

There is limited evidence to suggest that additional state licensing would effectively reduce gun-related crimes. Criminal activities often involve firearms obtained through illegal means, bypassing licensed dealers altogether. Resources might be better allocated toward enforcing existing laws and targeting illegal firearm trafficking.

4. Potential for Regulatory Overreach

Introducing a state licensing program could lead to inconsistent regulations that may confuse dealers and law enforcement. Ensuring compliance with both federal and state requirements could create legal complexities, increasing the risk of unintentional violations.

5. Impact on Law-Abiding Citizens

Additional licensing requirements could inadvertently affect law-abiding citizens by limiting access to firearms for self-defense, hunting, and sporting activities. It's crucial to balance public safety measures with the constitutional rights of individuals.

In conclusion, while the goal of enhancing public safety is commendable, the proposed study to establish a state gun dealer licensing program may lead to redundant regulations, impose unnecessary burdens, and have limited impact on reducing crime. I respectfully urge the committee to consider these points when deliberating on HB 3076.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jacob Cosler