

Testimony of Tom O'Connor  
On HB 3076  
To House Committee on the Judiciary  
March 20, 2025

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee

My name is Tom O'Connor. I am a life-long gun owner, native Oregonian and resident of Clackamas County. I am here today to testify in support of HB 3076.

I am one of the founding members of Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership. Our organization was formed in the aftermath of the 2013 Clackamas Town Center shooting where two of our board members lost loved ones. We are gun owners, outdoor enthusiasts, veterans and parents who seek reasonable and effective solutions to gun violence.

Over the last several years we have been partnering with community and hospital-based gun violence intervention groups. For example, we have helped provide safe storage information and free locking devices. The courageous folks working on the streets and with families in our communities do incredible work to interrupt the cycle of violence, but they cannot do it alone.

We must stop the flow of guns being used for crime in our communities. Gun dealer licensing is a proven solution to violent gun crimes that has already been passed in 17 states. Research shows gun dealer licensing reduces gun diversions for criminal activity by 60% and homicides by almost 40%.

Today, the ATF is only inspecting Oregon gun dealers once every 57 years and even when they are found to have significant violations they

are not being shut down. Gun dealers play a critical role and should be held responsible to foster a culture of responsible gun dealing, purchasing, and ownership.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I urge you to give a do pass to HB 3076.