

Submitter: Thomas Karwaki
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

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Committee: House Committee on Judiciary Measure HB3076 - Support

My name is Thomas Karwaki. I support House Bill 3076 in its original and amended form.

HB 3076 establishes a state firearm dealer licensing program.

In 2021 I was shot at in Portland in my front yard with bullets hitting my car and trash bin. My understanding is that the gun was traced to an Oregon firearms dealer as were over half of guns used in crimes in Oregon.

Almost every business in Oregon has stricter regulations and inspections than gun dealers. Most dealers are inspected by the ATF only once a decade (and that's before the recent Federal layoffs) – that's fewer and less rigorous inspections than the local food cart or gas station. Lack of inspection leads to less attention to inventory security and training to prevent straw purchasing of guns. I know that because when I was a staffer to the Chair of the Militia & Police Committee in Virginia, when the Commonwealth required inspections and training it led to decreased straw purchasers and quickly cut gun smuggling to New York. HB 3076 allows the Oregon Legislature to regulate firearm dealers to assure that dealers secure their inventory of guns against theft, maintain sales records, aid in criminal investigations, and train staff to identify straw purchasers. This will protect not only Oregonians but also residents of other states because Oregon not only exports world-class wines, hazelnuts, cheeses and computer chips, but also guns.

Thomas Karwaki