

Submitter: Steven Wales

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB429

I respectfully submit this testimony to voice my strong opposition to Oregon Senate Bill 429. This bill would prohibit a gun dealer from transferring a firearm or unfinished frame or receiver until 72 hours have passed from the time a background check is requested—regardless of whether the background check is instantly approved. While I understand the intent to ensure public safety, SB 429 imposes unnecessary delays on law-abiding citizens and infringes on constitutional rights without offering any clear benefit.

First and foremost, SB 429 represents an unjustified restriction on Second Amendment rights. When an individual passes the required background check and is deemed legally eligible to purchase a firearm, there is no valid reason to deny them their right to complete that lawful purchase. A mandatory 72-hour waiting period—applied even after an approval—turns a safety mechanism into a political hurdle. The right to keep and bear arms is not a right that should be delayed without cause.

This bill could also pose serious risks to individuals in urgent need of self-defense. Victims of stalking, domestic violence, or other credible threats may not have the luxury of waiting three days to protect themselves or their families. Under current law, the Oregon State Police can deny or delay transfers when warranted by an inconclusive or concerning background check. That system already functions as a safeguard. SB 429 would force unnecessary delays even when no red flags exist.

Furthermore, there is no clear data to support the idea that waiting periods after a background check approval reduce violence, suicide, or crime. Oregon already requires background checks on all firearm transfers, and these are effectively enforced. Adding an arbitrary delay offers no proven safety benefit while burdening both citizens and firearms dealers.

From a practical standpoint, SB 429 imposes logistical and financial challenges on gun dealers across the state. Forced to hold on to approved purchases for at least three days, dealers would face increased liability, added storage needs, and the challenge of tracking hundreds or thousands of pending transactions. During high-demand periods, these delays could clog the system, increase overhead, and deter lawful customers—all without targeting the real sources of gun violence.

This bill also creates confusion and a chilling effect on lawful gun ownership in Oregon. Many rural residents rely on timely access to firearms for protection and utility. For them, this bill is more than an inconvenience—it's a barrier that

undermines their right to self-reliance and safety.

In conclusion, while we all want to reduce gun violence and keep firearms out of the wrong hands, SB 429 is a misguided approach. It punishes responsible citizens, burdens small businesses, and restricts fundamental rights without offering measurable benefits. The existing background check system already provides the oversight needed to prevent unlawful transfers. Additional delays only harm the very people the law is supposed to protect.

I urge lawmakers to oppose SB 429 and focus instead on enforcing existing laws and addressing the root causes of violence in our communities—not by targeting the rights of responsible Oregonians.