

**Written Testimony of Steve Lindley, Brady: United
In Support of
Oregon Bill HB 3076
March 20, 2025**

Thank you, Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Steve Lindley, and I am a 28-year law enforcement veteran and former Chief of the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Firearms. I am here on behalf of Brady and in support of House Bill 3076.

I am here today to talk about my experience in California as the Chief of the Bureau of Firearms, which licensed, regulated, and inspected the firearm industry. As part of this process, the Bureau was able to identify minor problems with a specific dealer's operation and correct them before they had a negative impact on the dealer's license and the community.

This is most important with new firearms dealers. As with any new business, a new firearm dealer is learning the environment and firearms business. The licensing and regulation process is, in part, there to assist the dealer in working through the laws related to firearm sales and educate them about the process. For example, a timely inspection of a new firearm dealer may uncover a number of violations. Often, these violations are not due to an effort to proactively violate the law but an oversight or ignorance of the law. Once these violations are pointed out and corrected, they are often not repeated by that dealer. The firearm dealer inspection process is just as much about education as it is about regulation and enforcement. It corrects a minor issue before it becomes a big problem. This is also true for seasoned dealers by correcting errors and ensuring laws are being followed.

While I was the Chief of the Bureau of Firearms, California had between 1,800 and 2,400 licensed firearm dealers in the State. Inspectors with the Bureau conducted hundreds of inspections per year during the dealers' normal business hours so as not to disrupt their business. These inspections were conducted with little fanfare, and the firearm dealer's customers often never knew the business was being inspected.

Depending on the size of the firearm dealer, the inspection could last from just a couple of hours to a full week. However, the inspection process was designed to be completed in the background and was there to educate and guide the dealer toward better business practices.

Conducting the licensing and inspections of firearm dealers and ensuring they comply with Oregon law is not a burden on the state or the industry. However, it does address firearm trafficking and crime in the community by increasing scrutiny of the business practices of licensed firearm dealers, improving their business practices, and holding them accountable for poor business practices or unlawful conduct.

According to ATF data in 2023, there were over 132,000 FFLs in the US, and the ATF inspected just over 8,600 of them. That's only 6.5% of the dealers, or one inspection every 15 years.

The process of licensing and inspecting the firearm industry is relatively straightforward, and other states and large cities around the nation have already done both. These states and

cities have not seen a decrease in firearm dealers because they are now required to be licensed, inspected, and follow the law.

The inspection, regulation, and enforcement of firearm dealers are vital in deterring irresponsible, negligent, and reckless business practices by some firearm dealers and ensure a “Well-Regulated” firearm industry.

House Bill 3076 is good for Oregon and for the community.

Thank you, and I ask for your “I” vote.