

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB429

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 429, which proposes to prohibit gun dealers from transferring a firearm or unfinished frame or receiver until 72 hours have elapsed from the time a criminal background check is requested and an approval number is received from the Department of State Police. While I understand the intent to promote public safety, I believe this legislation is both unnecessary and counterproductive.

First and foremost, the proposed 72-hour waiting period could create significant delays for law-abiding citizens who wish to exercise their Second Amendment rights. Many individuals rely on timely access to firearms for personal protection, hunting, or sporting purposes. Delaying a lawful transfer for an extended period can place undue hardship on responsible gun owners and infringe on their rights.

Moreover, the existing background check system is designed to be efficient and effective. Most background checks are completed within minutes, and the vast majority of transfers occur without issue. Implementing a mandatory waiting period for all transactions is an overreach that does not account for the effectiveness of the current system. There is no evidence to suggest that extending the wait time will enhance public safety or reduce gun violence.

Additionally, this legislation could inadvertently push responsible gun buyers toward private sales or the black market, where background checks are not required. Such a shift not only undermines the intent of the law but could also lead to a less regulated environment, ultimately making it more difficult to track firearms and ensure they are kept out of the hands of those who may misuse them.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose SB 429. This legislation is unnecessary and could create obstacles for responsible gun owners while failing to effectively address the root causes of gun violence. Let us focus on solutions that promote safety without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens.