

Testimony Against Oregon Senate Bill 429
Submitted to the Oregon Senate Committee on Rules, April 5, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I am writing as an Oregon resident to strongly oppose Senate Bill 429, which imposes a mandatory 72-hour waiting period on firearm transfers—including unfinished frames and receivers—until a background check approval number is received from the Department of State Police. This bill is an unjustified burden on law-abiding Oregonians, and I urge you to reject it in favor of policies that respect our rights while addressing actual safety concerns more effectively.

First, let's talk about the process behind this bill. I've heard disturbing reports about Moms Demand Action, a lobbying group notorious for its shenanigans, pulling strings to prop up SB 429. Word is they're requiring their members to submit testimonies to the organization for approval before those statements can be submitted to you. If true, this is a shameless attempt to rig the public input process, filtering out unscripted voices and pushing a sanitized narrative that aligns with their anti-gun agenda. How can we trust the support for this bill when it's being orchestrated by a lobby that plays these games? It's not democracy—it's manipulation, and it taints the whole debate.

Now, onto SB 429 itself. This 72-hour waiting period is a solution in search of a problem. Oregon already has a robust background check system through the State Police, and delays already occur when approvals aren't immediate. Adding a mandatory three-day wait—on top of requiring an approval number—punishes law-abiding citizens without evidence it'll stop crime. Criminals don't buy guns from dealers or wait for checks; they get them illegally. Meanwhile, a single mom needing a firearm for self-defense or a rural Oregonian facing a real threat could be left vulnerable because of this arbitrary delay. The inclusion of unfinished frames and receivers only makes it worse—penalizing hobbyists and builders who pose no risk.

This bill doesn't enhance safety; it erodes freedom. Studies—like those from the Rand Corporation—show waiting periods have inconclusive effects on reducing violence, yet they're guaranteed to frustrate responsible gun owners. Oregon's current system already flags prohibited buyers—why pile on a blanket delay that treats everyone like a suspect? And let's be real: Moms Demand Action's fingerprints all over this suggest it's less about data and more about their long game to chip away at Second Amendment rights.

I ask you to see through the lobbying shenanigans and reject SB 429. Focus on enforcing existing laws and supporting community safety—like mental health resources—instead of tying the hands of law-abiding Oregonians. Thank you for considering my stance.

Sincerely,
Harald Thomas
Portland, Oregon