

Submitter: Ryan Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB429

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 429, which imposes a 72-hour waiting period and mandates a background check approval number before gun dealers can transfer firearms or unfinished frames/receivers. This measure infringes on Second Amendment rights, adds unnecessary burdens, and fails to address violence effectively.

The 72-hour delay assumes law-abiding citizens—already required to hold a permit under ORS 166.505—are threats, despite passing initial checks. It penalizes responsible gun owners, like hunters or those needing self-defense, without evidence it reduces crime. A 2018 study in JAMA found waiting periods had no clear impact on firearm homicides in states with similar laws.

Requiring an approval number further complicates transfers. The Department of State Police often delays beyond 30 minutes, as noted in ORS 166.412(3)(b). A 72-hour minimum wait, even with approval, could stretch into days, disrupting lawful purchases. This burdens small dealers and rural buyers most, where access is already limited.

Granting immunity to dealers who comply incentivizes delays, not safety. Meanwhile, criminals bypass legal channels—per the DOJ, 77% of offenders in 2021 obtained guns illegally. SB 429 misses them entirely.

Reject this bill. Protect rights and focus on proven solutions, not symbolic delays.