

Submitter: Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3224
NO on HB 3224 A

In Oregon, background checks are required for various reasons, including employment in certain industries and volunteering for organizations that contract with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) or the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). These checks are also necessary for individuals working with children, seniors, people with disabilities, and those with mental illness. Additionally, employers in Oregon must conduct background checks on prospective employees and volunteers who work for organizations that contract with ODHS or OHA. Plus background checks to own a firearm.

Depending on the scope of the screening, it may include a search of public records, databases, and other sources of information to verify a person's employment history, academic background, driving record, and more. However, Oregon law prohibits employers from asking about an applicant's criminal history on job applications. Employers can inquire about criminal backgrounds during the interview stage, but not before a conditional job offer has been made.

With the increase of illegal criminals making Oregon their sanctuary, the prohibition of criminal history checks need to be removed for the safety of others, but it doesn't take a study. This bill will either expand background checks to the maximum level, infringing on privacy of personal information when not needed. Or, if it is reduced to the lowest level, it could increase risk. This is not a case of one law fits all circumstances, making this bill a waste of time. And a waste of money.

Please vote NO on HB 3224 A.