



PRESS RELEASE

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Newspaper Editorial Boards Weigh In On Senate Bill 941

Newspapers from The Dalles to Medford urge passage of background checks for all gun sales

[The Oregonian](#): “Guns may be good, but keeping them out of the wrong hands is even better. That’s why the Oregon Legislature should bring three years of off-and-on bickering to a close and pass a bill designed to expand gun background checks...”

“Thoughtful steps to help ensure guns are in good hands make sense. SB941 is one such step and should become law. If even one tragedy is avoided owing to its requirements, the extra paperwork, costs and delays will have been worth it.”

[Medford Mail Tribune](#): “The measure is aimed at preventing those with violent criminal records and people with documented mental illness from obtaining firearms. Oregonians who don’t fall into either category have no reason to fear this bill, because it won’t prevent them from buying a gun if they wish to do so. Their Second Amendment rights would remain intact.”

[The Dalles Chronicle](#): “Background checks make sense. Requiring background checks for private purchases of guns in Oregon makes sense.

“Any method of buying a gun should carry the same scrutiny of the purchaser’s fitness to own a weapon. If a purchaser faces a background check when buying a gun from a firearms dealer, and — in Oregon at least — when they buy a gun at a gun show, it stands to reason that a person who buys a gun privately should undergo that same scrutiny.

“Because, really, a sale is a sale is a sale. Why treat them differently?”

“In fact, the private gun sale market may be the last refuge of would-be gun owners who know they are ineligible, because of their criminal or mental health history, to buy a gun in Oregon by the other two means. We should not maintain this hands-off marketplace for them.”

[Register Guard](#): “Polls show that a majority of Oregon voters want expanded background checks. They understand, despite gun-right groups’ claims, that universal background checks are the most effective way to keep guns out of the wrong hands.”

[Ashland Daily Tidings](#): “State law makes it illegal for felons, domestic abuse offenders and those committed for mental health treatment to carry guns. The Senate bill would make the enforcement of that more complete by plugging the leak in the law that now allows those people to purchase guns from individuals, particularly through Internet purchases.”

[Statesman Journal](#): “Guns don't kill people. People kill people.” That is expressly the point of this bill: Don't interfere with firearms transactions between law-abiding individuals. Make it more difficult for a few people — those with criminal backgrounds, restraining orders or a potentially violent mental illness — to get guns.”

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