



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **House Committee Hears Hours of Testimony on Expanding Background Checks**

*Seven-and-a-half hour Rules Committee ensured that all voices were heard*

Yesterday, the House Rules Committee held a lengthy public hearing on Senate Bill 941, which would expand criminal background checks for all private gun sales. The hearing, which lasted well into the evening, was designed to give everyone in attendance an opportunity to have their voices heard.

Here are some quick stats from the hearing:

Number of hours of testimony: **7.5**

Number of people signed up to testify: **89**

Number of people who traveled more than 100 miles to attend: **11**

Number of Oregon counties represented: **11**

Despite the highly charged topic and the long hours, the hearing remained civil and respectful.

“No matter where you stand on this issue, my hope is that this hearing was an opportunity to voice your opinion,” says Rep. Val Hoyle (D-West Eugene & Junction City), who chairs the Rules Committee. “Members from both sides of the aisle worked to make sure this was a productive and respectful hearing.”

“I want to thank everyone involved—advocates on both sides of the issue, as well as both Democrats and Republican House members—for showing that even when we disagree, we don’t have to be disagreeable,” Rep. Hoyle added.

Rep. Hoyle also extended her appreciation to the committee, administrative, and building staff, who put in long hours to cover the hearing.

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