



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

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House Democrats Vote Down Minority Report To Increase Support For Law Enforcement Investigations Of Gun Violence

SB 941 Alternative Would've Targeted Criminals And Put More Police Officers On Street

Salem, OR – During today's House Floor debate on SB 941, Democrats voted down a Republican-submitted Minority Report that would've funded increased, strict enforcement of existing laws to prevent felons and the mentally ill from possessing or acquiring firearms. Unlike SB 941, MR1 offered support for the Oregon State Police by providing them with the tools and resources necessary to enforce the laws on the books and prevent criminals from acquiring and using firearms without interfering with the private transactions of responsible, law-abiding Oregonians.

"As I offer this Minority Report today, I do so with the acknowledgement that our grieving hearts for our lost loved ones cannot be healed by a law," said House Republican Leader Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte), while speaking in support of MR1. "If the intent of SB 941 is to make it harder for those who are already breaking the law to acquire firearms, then let's shape SB 941 to be about enforcement aimed at those who are breaking the law, not aimed at those who are not. This Minority Report does just that by offering the House an opportunity to fund strict and increased enforcement of existing laws – the laws that are already on the books that prevent domestic abusers, violent criminals and the mentally ill from possessing or acquiring firearms."

Acknowledging that several of Oregon's law enforcement communities testified that they did not have the resources or manpower to realistically enforce SB 941 within their jurisdictions, House Republicans drafted MR1 to increase police presence on the ground by creating a team within the Oregon State Police specifically tasked at preventing and removing the threat of firearm violence by criminals. Under the Minority Report, 10 new full-time positions would've been created within the Oregon State Police as part of the new Firearms Investigation Division. As part of this new division, eight officers would be assigned to investigate and arrest illegal transferors and illegal possessors, and two officers would conduct education and safety training, including distributing firearm safety kits and providing education on firearm locking devices.

Additionally, this Minority Report would've achieved the intent of the flawed SB 941 legislation – keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill – without infringing on the everyday transactions of law-abiding, responsible Oregonians.

"We have an opportunity for enforcement with this Minority Report. Increased enforcement of the laws on the books reduces criminals' access to firearms," concluded Rep. McLane. "SB 941 does not stop those

who know they will not pass a background check from illegally obtaining or stealing a firearm to commit a crime.”

MR1 was defeated by Democrats on a party-line vote on the House Floor.

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