



SENATOR TED FERRIOLI
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Salem, Oregon 97301
(503) 986-1950

John Kitzhaber
Governor
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

May 14, 2014

Dear Governor Kitzhaber,

As you know, the Department of State Police currently does not notify local law enforcement agencies when a person attempts to purchase a firearm but fails the criminal background check due to a felony record, outstanding arrest warrant, or commitment to a mental health institution. The Department has said that this action is based on legal advice that they do not have statutory authority to provide such notifications.

Due to the importance of this issue, I asked Legislative Counsel to do a thorough legal analysis. The attached legal opinion concludes that State Police do, in fact, have the authority to fully enforce current law. Based on this new information, I request that you take immediate action to ensure that your state agencies enforce the law to the full extent of their legal authority.

Thank you,

Ted Ferrioli
Senate District 30
Senate Republican Leader

cc:
Rich Evans