

SB 700

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Thank you Chair Prozanski and members of the committee for letting me speak today.

I'm here to speak against Senate Bill 700's inevitable profiling and persecution of homosexuals in our state and around the country. The "immediate family" language of the bill excludes firearm transfers between domestic partners under current law and serves to marginalize members of our community who routinely need access to firearms for their own protection. SB 700 creates conditions for abuse that I oppose unconditionally.

More chillingly, the abysmal standard of accountability for public servants in SB 700 encourages incompetence as a defense for data handling "failures." I am a veteran and my personal information was made public by an incompetent VA official who let their laptop get stolen. Allow me to assure you that the data you gather under this law will certainly find its way into the wrong hands.

According to this law, all a clerk has to say is “How was I to know the deputy from Topeka was part of the Westboro Baptist Church?” to get away with assisting hate crime. Criminalizing lawful commerce while excusing criminal incompetence is no way to promote safety in Oregon.

SB 700 data can be mined to yield information about race, religion, sexual preference and other leverage points. It gives officials with access to information incentive to capitalize on the data they can disclose. SB 347 and SB 699 are bad laws because they feed the monsters, but SB 700 is an evil law because it encourages officials to become the monsters

SB 700 does not make us safer. It is not addressing any emergency because the criminals are going to ignore it like all the other laws. It just means that my brother and his husband are one step closer to sewing a pink triangle onto their coats.