

Good Morning Senators,

My name is Mark Callahan. I am a gun owner, an NRA member, and live in South Salem. I am here today to advocate against the potential passage of SB 347. To begin we need to review the part of the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which states: "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." According to most thesauruses, the word "infringed" is synonymous with the words "encroach", "contravene", "impose", "meddle", "disregard", and "violate".

Right now it is legal, for CHL holders, to carry on any school grounds in Oregon including K-12 as well as colleges and universities. This bill affects personal choice by encroaching on and meddling with ORS 166.370 making K-12 schools a separate class of public buildings and makes it illegal for even those with a CHL to possess a loaded firearm anywhere on the school grounds. It would have to be unloaded and locked in an automobile. It also may not be on your person when you are outside your car, even unloaded. This violates and disregards CHL holders' rights under the 2nd Amendment. This would make more kids sitting ducks for maniacs, and it absolutely boggles the mind, why this legislature would want to create more victims. We should be arming, at the very least, front office staff if not teachers, in classrooms. The proponents of this bill will say "Oh, it's OK, there is an exception in it that if the school publishes a written policy allowing concealed carry, then it will be legal at that school." The bill does contain that, but let's be serious: how many schools are going to do that?

This bill comes up every year and has been defeated every year so far, but it is especially staggering that this bill is being put forward this year, or that it would get a hearing, after Sandy Hook. If a concealed carrier had been there, so many kids would not have died, and maybe none.

The plain and simple fact remains that this bill makes schools "gun-free" zones. As recent evidence from the Colorado movie theater shooting has shown us, the killer specifically sought out a movie theater that was a "gun-free" zone, when he chose to inflict the horrible killings and terror he did. Criminals don't care if there is a law on the books that tells them they can't have a gun in a particular place. Criminals don't follow the law, that is why they are criminals. This law only further restricts the rights of, and disarms law abiding citizens, which is why I, and several thousands of citizens across Oregon are asking you to vote No on SB 347. Thank you.