

To: State of Oregon House Representatives and Senators
From: Mr. Lynn K. Munson 503/730-1282
Subject: My Experiences as a Victim of Gun Violence
April 5, 2013

Dear Honorable Representatives:

I am a 63 year old 3rd generation Oregonian and currently reside in West Linn. Following are three instances of Gun Violence I have suffered at the hands of criminals in Oregon.

1. While attending the University of Oregon in the mid-seventies, I worked nights in a Eugene gas station. One evening I went outside the station to pump gas for two men in a car. After providing them their gasoline, I went back out to give them their change. Both men were outside the car, and as I prepared to give them their change, each had their right hand in their coat pockets. They looked at me with cold "Killer" eyes and ordered me back inside the station to give them all the money in our till. As I backed through the 'man door' built into our large roll-up doors, I was mentally preparing to draw and fire to save my own life. At the last second, they announced they were "just kidding". I told them to take their hands out of their pockets and I drew my Smith & Wesson .38 Special revolver, for which I had a Concealed Carry permit from Lane County.

I was so scared and so surprised by the whole event, that I just ordered them to leave and called 911. The Sheriff's Deputy was there within 2 minutes, by which time they were gone. I gave him their description and that of the car and he told me I did the right thing and was lucky to have survived the incident.

2. While attending the U of O a year or so later, I was walking between the Student Union and the Administration Building when the next incident happened. At my wife's insistence that "nothing is ever going to happen on the campus", I left my handgun locked-up in our apartment.

As I walked toward the Administration building a confrontation broke out between two men. One was driving his car at about 25-30 miles per hour through this posted 10 mile per hour zone. A second man was trying to cross the street and was almost hit by the car. An argument ensued and then a fist-fight. The driver of the car was getting the worst of it, so he got back in the car and almost ran down the other man, who had decided to hold onto the driver's side windshield wiper in order to make the point that this was an area crowded with students and that the driver should obey the posted 10 mph limit. At this point the man in the car reached under the seat and pulled out a 9mm Browning Hi-Power pistol. He shot two rounds through his own windshield trying to hit the other man. This just made the other man really angry. The driver got out of the car and was "posturing" by holding the gun at his side in a "gang-banger" style. He then advanced on his unarmed victim and using body posturing got the guy up on the sidewalk where I was standing within 10 feet of the

car and the other two men. The driver, then at a distance of a few feet, shot the man in his thigh with the pistol and then jumped back in his car and took off. I applied direct pressure and first aid to the man who had been shot.

The Eugene Police caught the shooter in less than 30 minutes, and I went to their headquarters to ID the shooter. In talking with the police, and later the District Attorney prosecuting the case, I learned that the shooter, a 25 year-old, had an extensive juvenile record, including attempted murder of his own mother via poisoning and had done time in both juvenile and adult prisons. He was at the U of O on some type of "Send them to College" rehabilitation program.

If I had my handgun with me, I am certain the innocent man would never have been shot.

3. About six years ago, I was shopping at the strip mall across the street from the Clackamas Town Center Mall. It was dusk and I was walking back to my car after having bought a few Christmas presents for my sons. As I was getting closer to my car, I observed a 'young twenties' man wearing a "hoody" to my right side looking at me and walking in a direction where we would both meet at my car. I then looked to my left and observed another man of similar age doing the same thing, but approaching from my left side. At this point, I had a Concealed Weapons permit from Clackamas County and was carrying a Glock .40 S&W handgun in a holster above my right kidney. As the two approached to within 15 feet, the hair went up on my neck. I swept my coat back out of the way with my right hand and took a "firing" grip on my pistol. At this point both men turned away and ran as fast as they could. Fortunately, I did not have to show or fire my pistol, but again, the fear and adrenalin of the situation was very real.

In the first instance above, I don't know if they had guns or not, but it sure felt like they did, and I was glad I at least had a fighting chance.

In the second instance, the criminal had a gun, shot an innocent man and could easily have shot me as I was unarmed and within 10 feet of him when he shot the other man. As a Felon, he would not have been able to buy a gun legally, therefore he either stole it or had someone else procure it for him, both of which are illegal.

In the third instance, I don't know if the two were armed or not, however they obviously had something criminal on their mind and only ran when they themselves felt threatened. The confidence of having a permit and a firearm made it possible for me to escape a robbery, injury or possibly even death.

I visited the State Capitol on a Friday afternoon about two months ago and visited with the Chiefs of Staff of Senator Devlin, Representative Julie Parish, and House Speaker Tina Kotek.

I had a 20 minute meeting with Kurt Schrader and have written to Senators Merkley and Wyden.

In the personal meetings, and in my letters to Senators Merkley and Wyden, I have emphasized my desire for them to work on "Gun Issues" that will actually have a positive effect.

I suggested to each of my elected representatives that they propose and pass legislation which would give tax credits at both the State and Federal levels for the purchase of a gun safe or locking gun cabinet. As an Oregon Certified Public Accountant with plenty of tax experience, I can tell you tax credits motivate people to do the desired actions to obtain the credit.

In the case of the Clackamas Town Center, the tragedies would never have happened if the firearm used had been stored in a safe or locking gun cabinet. The gun owner didn't do that and his negligence resulted in tragic deaths and horrible injuries.

In the case of Sandy Hook, I understand the shooter's mother purchased the firearms used in the shooting, and a safe for her mentally deranged son. Unfortunately, she did not have the foresight to keep the safe's combination known to her alone. This resulted in her death and those of so many innocent children and their teachers.

I ask you to seriously consider the following:

1. Tax credits motivate people to take action.
2. Locked-up guns make it difficult or impossible for people to use them without authorization, or to steal them outright.
3. A good locking gun cabinet from Bi Mart or most sporting goods stores sells for about \$300, and a decent safe can run from a few hundred dollars on up, depending upon size and quality.
4. A combined State and Federal Tax Credit of 50% of the certified cost of a gun cabinet or safe, with a maximum credit of \$500 to \$1,000 will motivate many gun owners to lock up their guns, resulting in less thefts and unauthorized access to people who should not have them.

We give tax credits for energy efficiency and other actions by taxpayers in order to save electricity, so it shouldn't be much of a stretch to give tax credits that will actually save somebody's life. Based upon my experience, I am confident this plan will work, and save lives of innocent people.

Of all the ideas put forth on a local and national level, with several being passed in Connecticut, this is the only plan that will help ensure our society seeing less of the tragic events perpetrated at the Clackamas Mall, New Town and by the gangs and criminals reported almost daily in the Oregonian.

Passing this tax credit into law, along with strict enforcement and serious consequences for "Straw" Purchases, will also contribute a great deal toward keeping firearms out of the hands of the mentally ill and criminals.

Sincerely,



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