

April 5, 2013 before the Senate Judiciary Committee

Testimony of Rick George

Before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Chairman Sen. Floyd Prozanski

Good afternoon Chairman Prozanski and members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record my name is Rick George, I am a resident of McMinnville, having recently moved from Eastern Oregon.

I am a lifelong gun owner and hunter. Raised in La Grande, I accompanied my father elk hunting in the Blue Mountains as a child in grade school and purchased my first rifle, began hunting and took Hunter's Safety at age 12. I am a strong proponent of the right and privilege to own a gun and hunt with as few restrictions as possible.

My fellow panelists are gun owners. They are experts. Paul lost a loved one at Clackamas Town Center. We are not here to defend a political position. We are here because we can help you legislate.

We believe more regulation of firearms, components and ammunition, carefully devised to protect our rights to own our guns but more importantly to provide effective protections from gun violence, is necessary and overdue. I believe that if we, as knowledgeable gun owners, don't stand up to direct the development of these new regulations our gun rights will be more impacted by the pendulum swing that always follows the politics of rhetoric and extreme polarization.

Senators, I will be fined if I don't physically alter my shotgun so it can not shoot more than three shells while hunting birds. That's a logical regulation. The murderer at Thurston High in 1998 shot 50 rounds from his .22 rifle before being tackled and stopped when forced to reload. The owner of the AR-15 used by the shooter at Clackamas Town Center will not be arrested for not properly securing his weapon in his home. We need new smart, effective regulations. Guns don't belong in our schools. Oregon needs to complete the background check regulation by requiring it of private sales. Specifically we need to keep guns out of the hands of the bad guys with smarter more effective regulations and enforcement so that we can keep guns in the hands of the good guys. Guns do kill people. We offer our assistance to help to stop making it so easy for the wrong people to have ready, easy access to guns that have the killing capacity of our weapons of war.

Chairman Prozanski, Senators, I will turn the rest of our time to my fellow panelists.