

**Written Testimony for Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing 05 April 2013
Regarding Senate Bills 347, 699, 700, 796**

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am unable to attend the hearing today, but please consider my testimony in regards to these bills. **I write to you today to oppose these bills.**

First I'd like to address SB 347, SB 699, and SB 796. These bills attack Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders and will have no effect on crime or violence. CHL holders are, statistically speaking, more law-abiding than the public as a whole, and more law-abiding than the population of law enforcement officers. The limits proposed in these bills are nothing more than attacks on the idea of CHLs by people who do not like them. They solve no problem, and create additional legal complexity.

Each person has the right to choose how to protect herself. For some people, a CHL is that choice. Please do not further limit that choice with these unnecessary bills.

As a further note on SB 796, which requires a range test for CHL applicants: I am an advocate of learning and training and I encourage all gun owners to get as much professional training as they can. I have taken dozens of hours of professional, law-enforcement-equivalent handgun training.

This bill promotes no training; it is an arbitrary and costly hurdle for CHL applicants. It does nothing but dissuade and hinder applicants for no beneficial purpose. Please vote against it.

Regarding SB 700, which attempts to limit transfers of firearms: this bill creates an arbitrary definition of "family" which excludes and discriminates against persons in non-standard relationships. It creates expensive and arbitrary hurdles for lawful gun owners and purchasers without improving public safety. Many of the recent "mass shooters" in the news passed background checks. Mental health care and a better social support network rather than more convoluted gun laws may have prevented each of those tragedies. It is already illegal to transfer a gun to an unauthorized person. This law merely punishes law-abiding citizens.

In summary, I strongly oppose SB 347, 699, 700, and 796, and I urge you to vote against them.

Thank you for your honest attention,
Robert Brown
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