

April 6, 2013

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE, Room 331
Salem, OR 97301

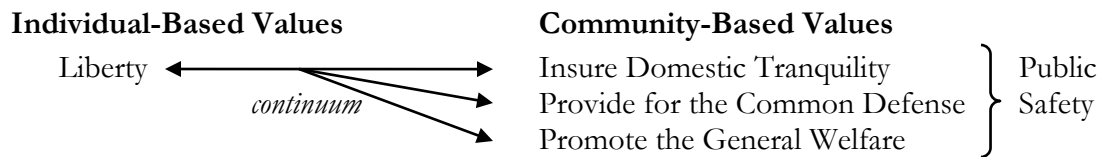
CCSJ is a group of 34 committed citizens based in the 1st Congressional District of Oregon. It uses the model of an ever-expanding number of snowflakes composed of family, friends, and colleagues to build support for the causes we cherish.

Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bills 347, 699, 700 and 796

Dear Senator Prozanski:

I am writing you in support of S.B. 347, S.B. 699, S.B. 700, and S.B. 796. While we in CCSJ understand that the arguments regarding gun ownership based upon liberty and the second amendment have merit, we also believe that those arguments should not supersede the equally compelling argument that the values of “domestic tranquility,” “the common defense,” and “the general welfare” must prevail.

In both the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble of the United States Constitution, individual rights are balanced against the community welfare. The Preamble illustrates the tensions among values expressed within the U.S Constitution:



We believe the fundamental issue is to balance the individual’s right to liberty with the community’s right to public safety. Our Constitutional right to . . .

- **Safety for those who have been the targets of gun violence,**
- **Safety for those terrified by the gun lobby and fearful of those who amass guns to defend their personal liberty against our own government, and**
- **Safety for those terrorized by the failure of government to control gun violence.**
- **The result: The costs to our nation of gun violence in lives, injuries, and money is too great.**

Public safety, as well as liberty, must be protected by sensible public policy. Passage of S.B. 347, S.B. 699, S.B. 700, and S.B. 796 will ensure that the public’s safety is also provided for through common-sense legislation.

Respectfully,

Darryl and Sherryll Mleynek,
CCSJ Members