

April 5, 2013

**Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Capital
900 Court Street NE, Room 331
Salem, Oregon 97301**

To the Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

It is with the deepest respect to you and great concern that I am writing this.

I am asking you to oppose or discontinue the promotion and support any new State or Federal firearm legislation from being passed into law. I strongly believe that this will not curb the violence witnessed across the country in recent months. As violent people will do violent things and since they didn't abide by current law how can we expect them to abide by new ones? We already have plenty of regulations that are not enforced already. This has been admitted to in D.C. and here in our own state. I'd suggest and strongly encourage that we work on enforcing current laws.

The outcome of new laws will only criminalize the law abiding majority of firearms owners and make them felons. That is harsh and to even think that is remotely acceptable is unforgivable. We all want to see less senseless acts of violence in our society. These bills won't help do that. They are nothing more than a feel good answer to the wrong problem. These bills are nothing more than a pacifier to the people and an opportunity to pat one another on the back for really doing nothing more than wasting valuable time and resources. The citizens of this beautiful state deserve better.

The question that also must be asked is how will the enforcement, prosecution and sentencing be paid for? Tax dollars the state does not have? DC can't manage its own financials let alone has the funding to send here. Higher personal taxes? Can our unemployed handle that? Higher corporate taxes? Let's not chase away the business that are here and prevent new ones from coming here. Can we really justify putting decent people into a prison system that only seems to turn out better and more violent criminals? What are you people thinking? You're not listening to the overwhelming public telling you to stop this nonsense. You do represent the citizens of this state after all. The citizens are your employers. Please don't forget that. Your political careers depend on our votes and we don't tend to forget.

In truth, we as Oregonians have more immediate issues to be addressed. Our public schools are always in need of more funding, local sheriffs and law enforcement desperately needs better funding, we need new businesses moving to Oregon while we keep the businesses we have, we need to get people back to work and earning a living wage. This all is the logical steps to

reducing crime and making life for Oregonians pleasant again. When Oregon prospers, crime of all types decreases.

While addressing violence in society, we need to study and address the root(s) of the problem. All these people who committed these violent acts were all mentally unstable. On drugs or otherwise impaired. So, let's seriously look to improve mental health treatment and not just throw drugs at the problem. We need a support system for those who ask for it and empower mental health professionals to treat and not just medicate.

Limiting minor's access to violent video games is another important factor that should be addressed. These only serve to desensitize our youth to violence and perhaps easier to commit violence. Parents need to be responsible for what they expose our youth to. Funding for more security in the schools would offer more eyes to watch out for and prevent violence. In my opinion, armed security in schools would be too difficult to regulate. The persons in that kind of position must be mentally stable, disciplined and trained. If these requirements could be met it would work but there are too many what ifs. Gun free zones are a terribly misguided idea. How many times do we hear about mass shootings in a police station, gun range or military installation? Never, because the type of people who would commit these terrible acts always go to where there is little to no resistance.

Please, do what's right for all of us. Oppose any new legislation that would limit the rights of good law abiding citizens. Why do you want to punish/hurt so many people for the horrific crimes of a few? It's lunacy, it's disgraceful and I am ashamed that it is even being considered. The second amendment was written for a reason and must not be infringed upon. For without the second amendment we could eventually lose the rest.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Richard Conklin
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