

Date: April 8, 2013

To: Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Roger W. Gracey
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503-873-3420

Re: Written testimony in opposition to SB347, 699, 700 and 796

Honorable Committee Members:

Please accept the following as my testimony to be included in the record regarding the above referenced Senate Bills.

By guarantying me the right to “keep and bear arms”, the Second Amendment recognizes and protects my “natural” right of self defense and self preservation. Each of the Bills before you, if enacted, would constitute a direct infringement on both my natural and Constitutional rights. These rights are individual and not collective.

In my opinion, SB347 doesn’t make sense. Why would we want to ban, much less criminalize, law abiding citizens who have qualified for and received a permit to carry a weapon from having that weapon on school grounds? It would be reassuring to have CHL holders on school grounds in the event of, and as a deterrent to, an actual or potential violent incident. And, it makes no sense to require that those weapons be locked in a safe without access to them should the need be necessary.

SB700 is particularly troublesome. Criminalizing the private transfer of a firearm is a direct infringement on my, and every other law abiding citizens right to keep and bear arms. It will do absolutely nothing to prevent criminals from obtaining a firearm, because by definition they are criminals. Additional regulations and impediments will affect only those individuals who are responsible citizens and add an additional burden and expense to the taxpayers to administer with no benefit to public safety.

As to SB796, passing a firing range test is nothing more than an obstacle. Satisfactory proof of gun safety is already a requirement and all that is necessary. Anything more is simply government regulation to make it more difficult to exercise the right of self defense.

The focus of these Bills is misdirected. There are already adequate laws on the books and the emphasis should be placed on enforcement of existing laws. Additional legislation should be aimed at identifying and preventing criminals and mentally ill individuals from obtaining firearms.

I respectfully urge each of you to oppose these Bills.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Gracey