

**Testimony regarding SB 347, SB 699, SB 700 and SB 796.
Senate Judiciary Committee public hearing. 4/5/13 8:30 AM, HR 50.**

TO: Sen. Floyd Prozanski: Chair, Sen. Betsy Close: Vice-Chair, Sen. Jackie Dingfelder, Sen. Jeff Kruse, Sen. Arnie Roblan,

My name is Forrest Johnson. I am a gun owner residing in Beavercreek, Oregon. I am writing to voice my opposition to the following four anti-gun bills : SB 347, SB 699, SB 700 and SB 796.

The most important question is: will these bills in any way reduce crime or prevent violence? Unfortunately the answer is no. These bills all specifically target law-abiding gun owners. Three concern only concealed handgun license holders who play no role in violent crime.

SB 347 *Modifies crime applicable to possession of firearm, or instrument used as dangerous weapon, while in or on school grounds.*

The Connecticut school shooter specifically chose an elementary school because it was a "soft target". There were no armed citizens, security or police present to stop the massacre. One good individual with a firearm could have prevented the tragedy, so why are we now trying to bar those armed individuals who have passed criminal background checks from school grounds? It is not reasonable to believe a criminal intending to take as many innocent lives as possible before ending their own will have any concern for criminal trespass with a firearm.

SB 699 *Modifies laws prohibiting possession of firearms in public buildings.*

When have armed citizens in the State Capitol ever perpetrated a crime? This is merely a punitive measure targeting gun owners and does not address the issue of firearm-related crime whatsoever.

SB 700 *Requires person to request criminal background check before transferring firearm to any other person outside the transferor's immediate family.*

While the intent is to prevent ineligible persons from obtaining a firearm, this will have no effect on the ability of criminals to obtain weapons. There is no evidence that criminals will submit to or perform a background check. They can simply disregard any new gun control law as they do others. This will merely place another layer of burden upon ordinary gun owners wishing to perform a legal transfer of private property.

SB 796 *Requires person applying for concealed handgun license to pass firing range test.*

While live-fire training is beneficial to the legally armed shooter, how will making this an additional requirement upon CHL holders reduce criminal activity? Again, the wrong group is being singled out for legal scrutiny.

These bills will in no way reduce criminal activity. They will in fact serve as punitive measures against ordinary law-abiding gun owners, placing undue burdens upon their constitutionally protected rights. All of these bills treat citizens as the criminals rather than addressing the criminals themselves.

Sincerely,

Forrest Johnson

Beavercreek, OR