

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

Dear Chair Prozanski and Committee Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am Walt Mintkeski and have resided at 6815 SE 31st Ave, Portland, OR since 1975.

I wish to testify in support of the following four bills which you are considering on April 5, 2013:

1. **Senate Bill 700:** Universal Background Checks, which loses the private sales loophole so criminals and dangerous people cannot buy guns.
2. **Senate Bill 347:** Gun-Free Schools, which gives school districts the authority to prohibit guns in Oregon public schools, K-12.
3. **Senate Bill 699:** Guns in Public Buildings which requires that people with concealed handgun licenses who are carrying firearms keep them concealed while in public buildings.
4. **Senate Bill 796:** Training for Concealed Handgun License, which requires that citizens applying for a concealed handgun license pass a firing range test.

I support these bills because they propose common sense, responsible, main stream regulations for the Second Amendment right to own and carry arms in our State.

As a husband, father of two sons, and the grandfather of a 5 year old boy and 2 year old girl, I am very concerned that my family and all Oregonians feel safe from gun violence in our State so that we can enjoy our right to Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness. Recent gun violence and gun massacres in Clackamas Town Center and Newtown, Connecticut, compel me to speak out for these four bills as common sense, responsible, main stream regulations for the Second Amendment right to own and carry arms in our State:

1. Background checks must be conducted for all gun sales, especially between individuals, where most guns involved in crimes are obtained.
2. School Districts must be allowed to prohibit guns in their schools in order to protect students.
3. Guns carried by responsible owners with concealed weapons permits should be required to be kept concealed in public buildings so as not to alarm the public.
4. Citizens applying for a concealed handgun license must be required to have training in live fire and gun safety so they know how powerful their weapons are and how to use them without harm to themselves and the public.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.