

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to SB 347, SB 700 and SB 796. All such bills would create laws that criminalize law-abiding citizens, citizens who have committed no crime with guns. By definition, criminals do not obey laws, so I see no reason whatsoever why such people would obey any new firearms laws which may be passed. Instead, new laws only penalize the law-abiding. It has been proven in the past that gun laws have little to no effect on crime, so why should these new laws be any different? Instead of attempting to pass laws to make the sponsors, who often don't even read the bills they are sponsoring, feel good about "doing something to stop 'gun violence'", I believe that we would be better served by enforcing existing laws as well as by helping law-abiding citizens to be better able to protect themselves by making it easier, not harder, to possess the means to protect themselves.

People who don't believe that citizens should protect themselves with firearms say, "Just call the police. Their job is to protect you." That is not actually the case. In *Warren v District of Columbia* in 1981 the US Supreme Court ruled that the police have no duty to protect individuals except under special circumstances. In addition, especially in rural areas but in urban areas as well, "When seconds count, the police are just minutes away." Therefore, it is my belief that the responsibility for the protection of individuals falls upon the armed citizen, and protection of those unable to do so for themselves often falls on that same armed citizen.

The Bill of Rights of the US Constitution puts on paper the God-given rights of freeborn American citizens. The Right to Keep and Bear Arms is one of those rights, and in the words of the Founding Fathers, that right "shall not be infringed". There is no mention of hunting, no mention of sport shooting. There is only the right to keep and bear arms, which in my view is the guarantor of all the other rights delineated therein. Please leave that right alone. In an ever more crowded world, where more and more people have little or no regard for the sanctity of human life, do not attempt to make it easier for the wolves of the world to prey on the rest of us. Leave my right to keep and bear arms alone. Do not pass these bills.

Sincerely,
Charles Buchanan
Durkee, Oregon