

To the Members of the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee  
April 1, 2015

Times change and it is now time to control the sale and distribution of lethal firearms. This is an emergency. Please forward SB 941. The framers of our constitution never imagined the gun-riddled society in which we now live.

I am a native Oregonian having grown up in the hunting community of Central Oregon. In my youth I was an active member of an NRA sponsored firearms organization and became a sharpshooter. My peers understood how to handle and care for their weapons.

Nearly 40 years ago I became a teacher at Springfield High School and evolved to serve as the unofficial archivist of SHS. In my historical research I was intrigued to learn that in the 1950s, the high school sponsored a rifle club and had a shooting range under its football stadium. Then, students were taught how to handle and care for their firearms.

Over the past half century it is clear to me that times have changed. The weaponry has become significantly more lethal and their users have less training in their proper use. The results have been devastating.

This should be a concern for citizens who want to live in a peaceable and safe community. We continue to learn of the increasing number of deaths and injury facilitated by careless distribution and use of firearms in our contemporary society. The escalating number of children killing and being killed by reckless use of firearms by irresponsible care of personal firearms is alarming.

SB 941 is a small step towards addressing the dangers to society through the uncontrolled distribution of firearms in Oregon. Oregon's leaders need to send the message that owning and using a firearm is a deadly serious responsibility and that everything possible should be done to assure that only responsible citizens are afforded that right.

Respectfully,

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