

I am outraged at a potential law that invades the privacy of my home and takes away my constitutional right to own firearms. The right to own firearms implies the right to use them. It is not a "right to own and lock up firearms" where they are inaccessible and unusable.

One use, although not the primary use, for my firearms is for personal protection. In order to use a firearm for personal protection, I must have immediate access to a loaded weapon. Intruders high on drugs are not likely to pause when they have broken down my front door, and wait while I go unlock my weapon, so I can stop their threat on my life or that of my family!

As a responsible voting citizen, I must exercise care that my firearms are stored safely in my home. I have been shooting guns since I was 10 years old and have always stored my guns safely. In 58 years, no child has ever gained access to even one of my firearms, loaded or unloaded, and I have never locked them up - at least not all of them at one time. If and when thieves break into my home, they are responsible for what they steal, not me. If they steal a gun, they are responsible for what they do with it. If they steal my car, and drive off and later run over an innocent pedestrian or child, don't prosecute me because my car was not locked safely in a vault where the thief couldn't access it; prosecute the thief.

I understand that men and women with good intentions think up these rules that seem like they may prevent someone getting hurt with my guns. And you are right. If my guns stay locked up, no one will get hurt with them. I suspect there are more guns in the hands of Oregon's citizens than there are cars. However, more innocent people are injured by automobile than by gun in Oregon. I don't see any lock up your auto laws, nor any if your car is stolen you lose your license and may never own a car again laws. So, just because an item has potential for harm does not mean we should lock it up and make criminals out of honest citizens.

Thank you,
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