

**Dear Legislators**

**SB 945 is another step in making responsible gun owners and their families into law breakers rather than law abiders.**

We in rural Oregon have a heritage of gun ownership and education of our children and grandchildren in the proper use and/or the prohibition of use of firearms in our homes and vehicles. When I was a minor we all, including some teachers, took our guns to school and often went hunting in the fall directly after school when we did not have after school sports or other activities. In my Freshman modern problems class our teacher took a poll and the average number of guns per household was 7. There was no criminal activity surrounding these “normal” activities and ownerships and the problems arose only when legislators and lawyers took discipline out of the home and schools . If you want to cure the lack of discipline, don’t look to more gun laws, look to more to personal parental accountability in those homes where discipline and respect for rules, laws and proper use of firearms are not taught and manifests as disrespect or antisocial behavior in the classroom. That is the kind of behavior which you have prevented the educators from dealing with on the spot. Make parents with problem children in the classroom come to school and be accountable for their children’s behaviors.

A better piece of legislation would be regular classes of firearm safety and respect which would be the norm with parents having to opt out if they choose to not have their minors around firearms. I wanted my kids and I want my grandkids to know about and respect firearms as tools for proper sporting, personal defense and civil defense.

**Stay out of our homes and our responsibilities as parent and grandparents.**

**Tim K Smith  
Harney County, Oregon**