

Dear Senators,

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB 945. It disgusts me the way this type of anti gun legislation is being rammed through by declaring it to be an emergency. This is only to prevent it from being referred to the voters where it would ultimately fail.

If you are really concerned with preventing the deaths of minors, there are a lot of things that cause many more deaths than guns that are not being talked about. According to the CDC for ages 1-14, accidental gun deaths are not even in the top ten causes of death. Motor vehicle accidents are the #1 cause of death in this group with 1210 deaths. Number 2 is suffocation with 1117. Way down the list is Firearm homicides at 162 deaths nationwide. Note that this is **homicide**, where the shooter intended to kill their victim, accidental firearm deaths do not fall in the top ten for any age group from 0-65+. I am hard pressed to see how this is an emergency. It has been said that gun deaths outpaced motor vehicle deaths in Oregon in several articles. However, the statistics are skewed by lumping homicide, suicide and accidental deaths together. I was unable to find statistics that separate out the three components, but accidental deaths are surely the smallest of the three, and likely a single digit number. This bill will do nothing to prevent homicide and suicides, and it is questionable whether it would prevent any accidental deaths.

In 2011 in Oregon, accidental poisonings had a rate 4 times higher than all firearms death rates combined. The accidental poisoning rate was 10.3 per 100,000 vs. 2.6 per 100,000 for **all** firearm deaths (which includes homicide, suicide and accidental deaths).

This bill is unnecessary and trying to solve a problem that is barely a blip on the radar of accidental deaths. I strongly urge you to vote no on this and move on to more important things like creating jobs for Oregonians.

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