

I just received the notice of this bill becoming an issue in Oregon. I am speechless. The firearms in the homes of honest citizens that were there before my life and all my lifetime is the worst knee-jerk reaction I have witnessed in my fifty eight years of life. Even though I disagree with the politics of this state that is carried by the majority on the Western side of the Cascade Mountains, I spent a career upholding its laws and keeping the public safe. I am now feeble and dying because of that commitment of serving this state and its people.

I carried a firearm most of my adult life, usually as part of my job, and was an avid sportsman and outdoorsman. I raised two sons with my wife and taught them the same values I was taught. Both of those sons have provided service to their country using the good sense taught them about the use of firearms.

My point is and it may be a small one, is that there would not be any such a reaction had I or one of mine been killed in action by enemy gunfire. The way this bill is thinking as it appears to me is that you would take the weapons away from the military as a result of those injured or killed in a war zone or a patrolman on the street.

Had I not taught my children from early in their youth how to handle and the proper use of firearms, I may not have them today. Further it is a common fact of human nature that if you deprive a person or child of something, that is just what they want and usually get. And we are right back where we started.

Weapons made safe and locked up in my home, I do. Threaten me with a criminal charge if you don't like the way I do it is out of line. Deprive those who are curious the proper handling of them under supervision is out of line. Trying to hold innocent gun owners liable in a criminal court is over the top a new kind of stupid. How many times do we have to see history repeated before we can learn from it? I am not talking about tragic accidents and crazy killers here at home. Accidents will happen and crazy people will find a way if not a firearm to attack others. I know I've seen it. Over government and laws to try to "protect" us from ourselves is just stupid. I wish the old victims of WWII were still around to point out the scar this type of government thinking creates. C.R. Hickey