

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

On the morning of August 23, 2000 a man broke into a house in Merced, CA that was occupied by 5 children that had been left alone while their parents went to work and to take a car in for service. The 14 year old eldest child saw the intruder and escaped to her bedroom where she locked the door and attempted to call 911 but found that the phone had been disabled. She immediately thought of her father's revolver that all of the children had been taught to shoot, but due to the recent passing of California's safe storage laws she remembered that it was inaccessible and unloaded as required. With no other option she was forced to leave her four siblings alone and escaped out her bedroom to run barefoot across a field to a neighbor's house. By the time the deputies arrived two of the children had been stabbed to death with a pitchfork and a third suffered non-fatal stab wounds from the pitchfork.

SB 945 seeks to bring this unconscionable overstep of government regulation into the heart of how Oregonians choose to raise their children and defend their families from home invaders intent on doing harm. We urge you to oppose SB 945 and focus resources on solving the sources creating these raging lunatics that want to harm others for no apparent reason.

Sincerely,

Stephen and Christine Meliza
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