

Please accept this written testimony in opposition to SB 945.

Senators of the Judiciary Committee;

I urge you to oppose SB 945. SB 945 would make it a crime for a homeowner to allow even the possibility of access to a firearm by a minor, except if the firearm is secured by a lock. Having an unlocked firearm in ones home is the only way that firearm is of use in self defense.

The facts:

* A 1994 survey conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that Americans use guns to frighten away intruders who are breaking into their homes about 498,000 times per year. According to the CDC, there were about 18,498 gun-related accidents that resulted in death or an emergency room visit during 2001 (the earliest year such data is available from the CDC). This is roughly 27 times lower than the CDC's 1994 estimate for the number of times Americans use guns to frighten away intruders who are breaking into their homes.

Even the facts show that families are safer with ready access to a firearm than they would be without. So, rather than being about reducing violence this bill is more about making criminals out of decent, law abiding, healthy citizens and extending the reach of government farther into our private lives. All in violation of our Constitutional rights.

Were a bill proposed that recognized the essential need for rapid access to ones firearm, while still requiring responsible ownership of that firearm, that bill could be considered to be about reducing violence.

I urge you to do what is right and good by opposing this ill conceived bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this written testimony in opposition to SB 941.

Senators of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge amendment of SB 945 in essence as follows: If enacted into law and any provision or consequence of this Bill is found to have violated any provision of the US or Oregon Constitution, every elected official who supported, voted in favor of, signed, or enforced the Bill or resulting law will be guilty of violating his/her Oath of Office. As a result, said elected official shall immediately be personally subject to a \$100,000 fine payable to his/her local government general fund, and 90 days imprisonment, at his/her personal expense, at a State of Oregon correctional facility. In addition, every elected official who supported, voted in favor of, signed, or enforced the Bill or resulting law agrees that the damage done to the citizens of Oregon due to their actions is inestimable, but that the above fine and imprisonment is a reasonable consequence for their actions.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Oregon, and the opportunity to offer this testimony regarding SB 945.

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