

Senate Judiciary Committee,

Testimony on Sen. Bill 945.

First off, I can in some cases see where someone might think that this bill will work for all Oregonians. However, it will cause more problems than it will solve. Let me tell you how we see it over here. All three of my kids had access to guns from the time they could show us they had the responsibility to use one. They knew that they could at first, not access them or take them out of the house without one of us being there. Heck, I can remember taking hunter safety classes in Bend when I was a kid about 10 to 12. By the time I was 12, I was big game hunting, so were our kids by about the same age. My Dad gave me my first 22 when I was about 11. I was shooting before that when we would go target plinking.

Most all of our kids had been trained to use guns & owned one of their own by the age of, + or - the age of 10 to 12. Heck, my two boys were hunting big game by the time they were 12. All our kids had access, in an emergency to guns, if the wife & I were not directly present at the time. Out camping or on the ranch, you just never knew when that time might come up. Could they access them before they were old enough to handle one, no, but they were never left alone at anytime until the oldest one could handle one at least. As they got old enough, any of the three could protect the others, were we not quickly available.

It just seems like everyone is out to control all aspects of your life. Parents should be responsible for their kids & others but we don't need big government telling us how to raise our kids. I think what irks me with my home state of Oregon anymore, is that about 15% to 20%, land mass wise are telling the other 80% of Oregonians how we must live. Just look at a map of how the red & blue is proportioned in Oregon. You can have a 100 people living on a thousand acres here & a 100,000 people living on a thousand acres over there. We don't tell them how they have to live, we don't think they have the right to tell us how we have to live.

What really is upsetting to us is the fact that we never followed a strict party line years ago. We voted for the the best person we felt could do the job. Seems no matter what it is now the votes seem to just go down the party line, like a bunch of sheep following their Master. Not using common sense if they really agreed with the position or not.

Please don't pass SB 945, SB 941 was bad enough. The sheriffs we know over here at least are against it & have told me they won't enforce them.

Merritt & Diana Williams & lots of Neighbors