

Please Legislate with the same Moral Authority

Catherine Heaton
Committee Assistant
2016 Oregon Legislative Session

2 February, 2016

Dear Catherine,

Please accept this document in place of my presence/testimony for this legislative session; not being able to participate and testify in person is a personal disappointment, so thank you for facilitating the expression of my heartfelt opinion/testimony on HB 4147

To the honorable Representatives, Senators, Governor, First Responders, Military, Judges, legal and law abiding Citizens of the great State of Oregon, please accept my heartfelt appreciation for all the good things that occur in Oregon on a daily basis; Oregon has been our chosen home since our retirement in 2001, and we intend to stay, contribute, and enjoy everything Oregon has to offer; for life.

I am writing this letter today to personally-ask the House of Representatives: **legislate with the moral authority behind you**; the law abiding citizens of Oregon deserve to have elected officials who will serve the entire state. I'm asking that our elected leaders exercise the same moral authority that our Military, Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs), Firefighters, Medical Personnel, and other First responders demonstrate on the job (and in retirement) every day; on behalf of ALL the citizens.

When Firefighters enter burning buildings to save lives, they do not stop and ask if the citizens in peril are democrats or republicans, they do not stop to think if the life they are saving deserves to be saved or not; they just go in and save the life if they can. When an (LEO) makes a traffic stop, they do not first-consider the voting record of the motorist; they justly-prevent traffic and other hazards without regard to who the danger(s) may be coming from. The Coast Guard rescue swimmers just jump in the ocean and save people, they do not pick and choose.

When a 911 dispatcher receives a call, they do not screen calls by political affiliation, wealth, political action gender, neighborhood, committee-initiatives, or voting records; they just faithfully route the call. When an ambulance company receives a call to respond to a traffic accident on the highway or a health emergency in a home, they do not ask the dispatcher if the

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victims are “Left” or “Right”, they do not ask of the person would do more harm if allowed to survive; they just go and do their duty.

I served in the active-army for 24+ years; myself or my brothers and sisters in arms don't possess the desire, ideology, paradigm, or the ability to “pick and choose” which Americans we would defend or which American we would not defend; we just do our jobs we defend us ALL; democrats, republicans, moderates, far lefts, far rights, law abiding citizens, our prisoners, foreign visitors, and students; we even defend the liberties of criminals and the accused. Our high regard Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness provides our Military, LEOs, Firefighters, and First responders with the moral authority and intestinal fortitude to perform their duties in the face of all types of danger; including the unknown dangers.

I am also asking that our State Representatives avoid the pitfalls of “group-thinking” and instead, focus on the rule of law. “Group-think” is never healthy; it decreases the sense of responsibility among participants; allows for social loafing, and it is well-documented that “group-thinking” significantly-contributed to many catastrophic failures at State and National levels; to include the gross-misuse of “Manifest Destiny”, the Monroe Doctrine, and the failed re-entry of the Space Shuttle Columbia, so please resist the urges to legislate and vote-away the civil-liberties of law abiding citizens for the sake of a few, party lines, or for the sake of the unknown.

An unknown author once wrote “a truly emancipated spirit cannot be bridled by its own emancipation; meaning to me that we should not use our freedoms to restrict the freedoms of others. Using our freedoms to restrict the freedoms of others may sneak pass an unbalanced legislative session, but it will not have the moral authority behind it. Without the moral authority behind any measure, any bill, or any law, the citizenry will have no choice other than to resist by disobedience. Nature built the instinct(s) and hardware of self-defense/preservation into every living creature; how can a governing body morally go against the laws of nature?

Many Oregon counties do not have the resources to enforce some of the laws already on the books; why pass a law which cannot be properly funded and enforced?

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HB 4147 is poorly written because it originated in a group think situation; the State and US Constitution was not held in sufficient regard when the bill was drafted. Oregon used to be a place where individual liberty was important to everyone; possessing the ideology to restrict the civil liberties of people before they commit a crime is the moral-equivalent of issuing yellow light traffic citations; because what could have happened?

This is a dangerous bill; a bureaucratic-delay in the purchase of a firearm could mean the difference between life and death. Let me offer this scenario which frequently plays-out in society: An estranged or former husband has become angry because of a court decision and verbally-threatens his former wife. The former wife decides to purchase a firearm and training to protect her-self and her children from her ex-husband, but her purchase is delayed because of HB 4147 for 30, 60, or 90 days.....The ex-husband having intimate knowledge of where she resides (perhaps copies of the house keys), what she has in the home to protect her-self and her children, the hiding places, is now able to exploit the situation and harm her, the children, or both. In this scenario, HB 4147 set up the former wife (and society) for failure.

I wish to reiterate oaths that our LEOs, Firefighters, First Responders, Medical Personnel, and Military faithfully-swear to uphold without regard to our logistical situations, without regard to political affiliations, without regard to outside influences, without regard to the unknowns, without regard to “group-think”. The morality of the professions mentioned above is the morality I hope prevails in this and every legislative session; serve and protect the civil liberties of ALL Oregonians; this is the standard I expect you follow as a public servant.

Finally, I invite your attention to the actions of an American champion of liberty; Mrs. Rosa Parks. Mrs. Parks didn't say “NO” to the bus on that fateful day, she said “NO” to the bus driver. Let's better-enforce the laws AFTER the laws are broken; respect the civil liberties of ALL Oregonians.

Thank You!

Dominic Giampietro
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Yamhill County