

Dear legislators:

Is there a time, a situation, a legislative bill which does in fact, go too far? Is it possible for government to infringe on liberty? Will there be a time when you recognize that your efforts are not helping, but hurting Oregonians?

You have or will have heard all of the arguments for and against this bill by now. Those facts on both sides are arguable, to say the very least. I submit for your consideration that you can go too far with your law making efforts. You can create a condition whereby those you serve, We The People, loose as a direct result of your attempts to intervene.

No healthy individual will ever condone violence, criminal behavior or even aggression which endangers others. But, it's also true that healthy people expect to take responsibility for themselves and their own. When your law making efforts hinder that option and replace it with your version of helping in such a way that individual liberty is impacted, I submit you have gone too far. Likewise, when your efforts do little to hinder criminal behavior, that too, is indication that you have usurped libertarian rights of the good and law abiding people you serve.

I've worked with aberrant personalities most of my professional career. I want you to know that long before criminals commit violence they surely have already figured out how to escape the laws that were designed to impede their intentions. Criminals are anything but dumb. On the contrary, they are successful because they have learned to adapt. They don't do things the way you and I do, including the procurement of weapons of violence. So, all the laws you concoct to discourage their illegal efforts are long since circumvented. Remember that when you pass laws regarding ownership of weapons that also protect.

Be wise, legislators. Help the people help themselves. You aren't the deciders of liberty. You are servants. You are honorable deciders of policies who have been elected to help us help ourselves. Remember, when your efforts negatively impact equally those who deserve to choose for themselves, then you have gone too far.

Respectfully submitted,

**LARRY BARRETT
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