

Hello,

I am writing you today to discuss my thoughts on the above referenced bills being introduced to the Oregon House of Representatives.

HB2526

In this bill, you are declaring the Department of Justice to be fit to create a firearm safety and suicide prevention program. Don't you think these programs already exist? What makes you think the Department of Justice is qualified to undertake this monumental task? The Department of Justice should stick to what the website describes as their mission:

- Providing ethical, independent and high quality legal services to state government;
- Safeguarding consumers from fraud and unfair business practices;
- Fighting crime and helping crime victims;
- Advocating for vulnerable children;
- Supporting families through the collection of child support;
- Enforcing environmental protections;
- Defending the civil rights of all Oregonians;
- Pursuing justice and upholding the rule of law

Nowhere in this mission does it say they are qualified to create suicide prevention materials. As for the firearm safety program, those already exist. The NRA teaches it's certified instructors firearm safety. Every one of the instructors I have EVER worked with on firearm training have ALWAYS stressed the importance of firearm safety. It is my belief that the reason you are pushing firearm safety is because you are afraid of firearms. If you would take time and actually learn from a competent, qualified instructor, you would see that firearms are not dangerous. They are tools for PEOPLE to use, yet politicians are quick to place blame on the TOOL when mass shootings happen. Please oppose this bill, as I fear this will become a tax payer funded anti-gun effort.

HJR13

This bill proposes a change to the Oregon Constitution allowing police to ask individuals ANYTIME whether or not they are carrying a firearm. I have always been under the impression that the Oregon Constitution MUST comply with the U.S. Constitution as it is SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND! How does this comply with the 4th amendment in the U.S. Constitution? I would support a resolution that allowed police to ask about weapons when they had reason to fear for their safety, but not simply because they stopped me.

I urge you to vote NO on this bill as well.

Thank You,

Patrick Akins