

Testimony, SB 868

Members of the Committee,

This bill could serve as a case study in the kind of delusional thinking so prevalent in our society today regarding crime and criminals. Does anyone really, seriously believe that passing a law like this is going to cause the type of person who threatens and stalks someone with the intention of committing murder, to meekly surrender their firearms to law enforcement - not to mention the myriad other "Weapons" suggested by the proposed Amendment? Yet we see this type of legislation proposed, and sometimes enacted, repeatedly as though if we can just pass one more law, somehow criminals will suddenly stop being criminals.

Additionally, one might suggest to whoever wrote this that they have a look at the Federal Crime Statistics to get a clue as to what sorts of implements are used as "Weapons" - and particularly in the fit of rage in which most of these murders are committed. Hammers, steel pipes, rope... Exactly how much of the mayhem which this Bill proposes to stop, is even committed with firearms or other such objects? (Moreover, any attorney could have a field day finessing the definition of what sort of object might be "Specifically Designed For Causing Death or Serious Injury".)

More fundamentally though, in assessing this type of legislation in general, its very verbosity and the endless, tortuous attempts to define certain objects attest to the fact that it is fundamentally flawed for a specific reason: it attempts to regulate and restrict physical objects, rather than the person using them. If someone has been deemed to be so dangerous that they can't be allowed to possess something with which they might kill someone else - whether a firearm or something else - it is *the person* which needs to be restricted or incarcerated, so that they are then unable to gain access to *any* weapon - whether "Specifically Designed For Causing Death or Serious Injury", or merely conveniently found in a kitchen drawer.

The tragic thing about legislation of this sort, which endlessly tries to regulate human behavior by restricting access to one object or another - basically, in the tradition of Prohibition - is not merely that it is ineffectual, but that the entire concept which motivates it is misguided and that our Legislatures continue to expend, in the pursuit of such useless regulations, the time, effort, and money which could be spent on realizing real solutions to these problems. In this case, to wit: if someone is deemed too dangerous to be allowed access to something which could be used as a weapon, lock *the person* up.

Please vote NO on this useless bill.

Dave Simmons  
Dallas, Oregon  
503.243.1399