

Testimony, SB 719

Members of the Committee,

This bill is useless, counterproductive, and dangerous, as far as it goes. No one who is the subject of a court order of the sort proposed by the bill is going to willingly surrender their firearms to the police. Moreover, any attempt at serving such a court order upon a psychotic individual is more than likely to provoke the very violence which this bill purports to prevent. And, the bill will eventually result in police firearms confiscation raids in which people will die.

But more than that even, it is clear from the testimony of those in support of the former SB 868, that there is a real problem in obtaining psychological counseling and resources for those whom the bill otherwise proposes merely to attempt to disarm. But the bill does not address that issue, instead in typical fashion addressing a symptom or outcome of a problem without addressing the root cause - the lack of resources for dealing with despondent or disturbed individuals. At the very least, if someone is so disturbed that they cannot be trusted with a firearm or other dangerous implement, they should be committed to a psychiatric facility for treatment, not left at large where they may use any implement that comes hand, whether a "weapon" in the traditional sense or not, to harm themselves or others.

Please vote NO on this useless and counterproductive bill and redirect the Legislature's effort's toward addressing the real problem, and not just the symptoms thereof.

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