

Dear Committee members,

I urge you to oppose SB 719, a bill related to firearms and alleged “extreme risk.” Just like SB868, after the thoughtful and informative December 17, 2015 Active Shooter Hearing, I am shocked at the audacity of the anti-gun movement to put forth this piece of legislation.

This proposed legislation eviscerates due process and turns Oregon into a Soviet style collection of secret snitches! Basically, through this legislation if someone makes a claim that you are, in their opinion, an “extreme risk” you lose your Second Amendment rights! Included in the list of people who can make that accusation against you are such mental health “experts” as a law enforcement officer, family member, or household member! Once the accusation has been made, it’s your problem to get your rights restored!

In the December 17 hearing, the invited professionals said over and over again, that while mental health issues are the cause of mass violence, mental health issues are just one warning sign (according to the FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit). In addition, these experts said access to a firearm is just one of the risk factors. As a result, to strip someone of their Second Amendment rights simply because of an “extreme risk” report is arbitrary, and is criminal and unthinkable.

This proposed legislation is dangerous and must be defeated or completely overhauled. If an overhaul is in order, I suggest that an “extreme risk” report be used simply as a catalyst to open an investigation to look for other violence warning signs, and if found, will initiate due process related to a course of action.

In Oregon, people who pose a danger to themselves or others may be dealt with in a number of ways, depending on the circumstances. Under current law, every punitive measure which leads to a prohibition on firearm possession requires some type of judicial process, so people are not arbitrarily deprived of their liberty or their rights. SB 868 is unnecessary and goes far beyond existing law.

Thank you for your service.