

Hello, my name is Matt Etheredge and I firmly stand against SB764, 868, 797. I have lived in Oregon most of my life and have always admired the people's free spirit. I think the saying, "live and let live" best describes the State and it's people. I am disheartened to see the bills coming out of Salem, especially directed toward legal firearm ownership. While other states governments are acknowledging the people's right to carry with "constitution carry", here in Oregon, law makers are blatantly ignoring our rights. I think to most, self defense is a human right that should never be limited. These bill are obviously doing that. Take SB764 for instance, this bill is misguided at best and an infringement of basic rights at worst. When my wife and I got our concealed carry permits it took weeks and a lot of money. Between the class, scheduling appt, waiting for background checks, fingerprinting, and the card being issued it took well over 2 months. I asked myself, how are we free? Here we are asking for permission to protect ourself, ASKING! It made me think of the people who have it harder than us. For instance, a domestic abuse victim or disabled elderly individual. To them, getting a concealed carry license could quite literally be too difficult. Here we have a group of people who need an easy avenue to self defense, a human right yet the State requires so much of us we cannot complete it, let alone afford it. For a domestic abuse victim, time is of essence. Yet if they want to legally carry they would have to wait weeks. Lets face it, they may not have weeks. But you may say, "that is what police are for." Well in life and death situations when police are minutes away seconds matter. As a fireman I have literally seen the lifeless bodies of domestically abused women, it is in my opinion that at least some of these women could have been saved had they been given the opportunity of quick and easy access to conceal carry. Thank you for listening and please vote down these infringing bills.

Sent from my iPhone