

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you to give testimony on how SB 868, 797, and 764 will likely hurt me and many other GLBTQ people in the state. Several years ago, I came here to Oregon after living my entire life in Southern Colorado. I moved here after several physical attacks that stemmed from me being outed as Transgender and a lesbian by some people I had counted as friends. After these attacks, I became despondent and withdrawn. I began looking for a new place to call home. After some time, my partner and I chose Oregon to move to because, not only does the elected body in this state respect peoples' right to live as they wish in respect to gender identity and sexuality, but they have -- up until now -- respected the right of the people to protect themselves from attackers.

The changes proposed will severely curtail my right and those of other minorities to be safe from those people who are bigoted and wish to harm us simply because we exist. We already have very clear and concise gun laws in place in the state of Oregon. We do not need these changes, and I would argue they will only make it harder for people like myself to acquire the means to defend ourselves and the ability to get a permit to carry out those means of defense where we are most vulnerable.

In closing, I'd like to leave you with this: When we were looking for a new state to call home, we did not choose California. Why? Although we would have found plenty of other GLBT people and allies in California, we would have been left unable to defend ourselves. On the other hand, we did not choose Idaho as our new home, either. We may have been able to easily defend ourselves in Idaho, but we would have been much more isolated and unable to connect with other GLBT people and allies there. We chose Oregon because of the compassion and, up until now, the levelheaded legislation pertaining to the 2nd amendment. Passing these laws will help no one but the bigots and thugs who prey on the law abiding citizens of this state.

Thank you for your time,

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