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Subject: Gun Testimony SB 868, 797 and 764
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Making laws does not prevent crime. Making laws give us the right to prosecute those who commit crime when they do.

Criminals, by their very nature, do not obey laws. That is why they are criminals.

Restricting the rights of ordinary citizens who habitually abide by the laws will not prevent crime perpetrated by those citizens who habitually do not abide by the laws.

The way to prevent gun violence is not to punish the law abiders. It can only be accomplished by implementing all of the following:

1. Restricting the importation of violent non-citizens by enforcing strict immigration rules, using advanced vetting procedures, and taking those who have committed crimes and putting them out of our country.
2. Imposing severe penalties, including the death penalty, on those who commit gun violence.
3. Working at the local level to restrict the access of youth in particular to violent, realistic video games that encourage anti-social behavior.
4. Teaching children in schools morals, empathy, respect, national pride, and self-respect.

I ask that you consider the second amendment rights of law abiding citizens and focus on punishing those who commit crimes. Just because you pass laws do not think for one second that gun violence will decrease. Guns will not go away and gun violence will not go away until you start focusing on the root causes of gun violence and not the law-abiding citizens or the gun itself.

I urge you to oppose SB 868, SB 797, and SB 764.

Jim Kolousek, Gaston, Oregon