

Testimony to the Judiciary Committee Members for HB 4145,

This Bill is not going to stop a determined aggressor and I know that you must be aware of that fact.

On the other hand, your support for this poorly thought out HB will once again continue a partisan agenda aimed at infringing law abiding gun owners. I have personally seen the potential harm a spouse or partner can do when they are given the power to disrupt the life of someone with whom they are angry. It can be devastating. And it is not uncommon. You know this is true if you are doing your research honestly.

HB Bill 4145 is an avenue to enable an overbearing state to partake in that same kind of perverse power abuse.

And worse, it may even allow some of your voters to view you as helping. Not because you are, but because of their general ignorance. This is nothing more than taking advantage of talking points for the ballot box as most of the recent and flawed gun bills have been.

I just watched on Wednesday, February 1st an embarrassing example of that ignorance by both Senator Prozanski and some of the attending Springfield City Club members. Common misconceptions, no matter how good intentioned were on full display with the Senator's presentation and the questioning afterwards.

But worse, far worse, was the misuse of numbers and stretched information by the Senator coupled with the tried and true disguised words like "reasonable" and "do something" which merely shelters a hard partisan agenda.

Surely, if you didn't boycott the SOTU speech, you saw that embarrassing digging in of the heels that is the total result of a bully groupthink. This is what happens when someone does not want to admit their opinion flies in the face of the facts or big money is well within their reach.

The Director of Oregon Firearms, a resource available to you, had triple the correct facts, examples, and line of clear, logical points in this debate in contrast to the Senator's, but memes and bias and peer pressure are hard things to break through.

Why don't those of you who think you can not safely step away from the flock without punishment consider having an authentic dialogue with someone outside your normal sphere. Sit down and reconsider what is right and good for all of Oregon's citizens with this HB, and the others that are sure to follow in this session. Table them and do your homework if you truly want to help prevent abuse.

The Oath you took, hopefully in good faith, is in fact still an important part of your job.

As to HB 4145's veracity...if someone is willing to ignore a retraining order with the intention to do harm then this Bill will not stop them.

But it will be capable of taking the rights away from someone who is trying to be a lawful citizen. Those individuals should not be your target, nor your victim.

Although I don't believe there is a full solution to stopping a determined criminal act, there are better approaches than what Salem has been attempting clouded by another agenda. A gun is not your enemy. Groupthink is far more the problem.

Sincerely,

Sally Klein