

WRITTEN TESTIMONY REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 978

With the new proposed gun control laws like SB 978 I haven't heard one State Senator or Representative say how they plan to take guns from criminals, just how they plan to limit rights of law abiding citizens.

When will our leaders recognize criminals are the problem not honest gun owners? Yet, SB 978 focuses on law abiding citizens. It adds zero penalties for an actual criminal.

There are over 22,000 Federal, State & Local gun laws on the books. Common sense says that all these laws and new laws do not stop criminals they only deny law abiding citizens their 2nd Amendment Rights. Fact is gun laws empower criminals. There is a critical aspect gun control advocates ignore and it's this, good people with guns stop evil people with guns..

SB 978 would allow cities, counties, metropolitan service districts, airports, schools, colleges and universities to ban CHL holders from "public buildings." Making them all so-called "gun free zones". Even law enforcement recognizes that gun-free zones leave shooting victims defenseless. So let's take a look at gun free zones, do they work?

The vast majority of mass shootings (98%) took place in gun free zones. Killers continue to target locations where guns are not allowed. Again, NINETY-EIGHT PERCENT (98%) of public mass shootings in this country occur in gun-free zones. It's no wonder 81% of police officers support arming teachers and principals, so that the real first responders — the potential victims — can protect children.

Yet SB 978 proposes to increase gun free killing zones. Consider the advice from PoliceOne, whose 450,000 members make it the largest private organization of active and retired law-enforcement officers in the U.S. recently surveyed its members and asked, "What would help most in preventing large scale shootings in public?" Their No. 1 answer: "More permissive concealed carry policies for civilians." (It was followed by "More aggressive institutionalization for mentally ill persons."). Yet our representatives want to expand so called, gun free zones!

How many more defenseless citizens have to die until our leaders realize that leaving citizens defenseless is not the answer, it's the problem.

If making all these public buildings gun free (killing) zones is not bad enough SB 978 would ban CHL holders from airports. Not just the terminal areas outside the ticketed passenger entry points SB 978 would ban licensed conceal carry holders from parking lots and grounds "adjacent" to parking lots. Even picking up a family member at passenger areas outside the terminal while legally carrying would now make it a felony.

Next, SB 978 requires firearms, even self defense firearms to be locked up. Under this bill citizens can be prosecuted even if they locked up their guns with a cable lock if someone has "access" to a device to defeats the locks. Which of course, anyone who has access to almost any tool can gain entry. No device, safe or lockbox is criminal proof. In addition, SB 978 allows for civil liability even if gun owners locked up their firearm(s) but a thief was able to break into the safe, lockbox, etc. To pass a law that prosecutes law abiding citizens is irresponsible. Yet, this bill does not address penalties for criminals who steal firearms. Why is that? Because as stated earlier our representatives are more interested in turning law abiding citizens into criminals instead of penalize the real criminals.

Making gun owners "***strictly liable***" for crimes committed with guns that were stolen from them is insane under any circumstances!

Lastly to hold gun owners responsible for two years for guns they "transferred [sold]" unless they could can prove the transferred firearm had a trigger lock or cable lock turns our legal system on its head by making a citizen guilty until they somehow prove themselves innocent. And just how do they prove themselves innocent? This is one of the most insane proposed law I have ever read.

For the reasons stated above whether you are for or against gun rights I urge everyone on the judiciary committee to vote against SB 978.

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#MyBodyMyChoiceMyRight

Crime Statistics: Mass Public Shootings keep occurring in Gun-Free Zones: 97.8% of attacks since 1950. Link below
<https://crimeresearch.org/2018/06/more-misleading-information-from-bloombergs-everytown-for-gun-safety-on-guns-analysis-of-recent-mass-shootings/>

Gun Control Survey: 11 key lessons from officers' perspectives
<https://www.policeone.com/gun-legislation-law-enforcement/articles/6183787-PoliceOnes-Gun-Control-Survey-11-key-lessons-from-officers-perspectives/>