

Representatives:

All people, everywhere, have a right to live -- even where it is not acknowledged by their government. Implicit in that right to live is the right to defend one's own life, and the lives of others: if you have a right to live, but are denied the right to defend your life, then effectively that nullifies your right to live by being defenseless against attack. These are fundamental, inherent human rights, seldom acknowledged, but universal.

The 2nd amendment acknowledges the right to defend life in the U.S. Constitution, and Article 1, section 27, repeats this acknowledgment in the Oregon Constitution. Impediments to that right, for any reason, are attacks against the lives of the law abiding citizen, but do nothing to restrain the lawless person. Why would government seek to tilt the balance of power toward the lawless, when most of the time lawless acts are done with no one to defend life except the victim?

Requiring firearms to be stored so that it takes precious time to retrieve and ready them, and punishing the law-abiding for a lawless act of theft by another, does nothing except hamper the essential use of a firearm: to protect life in an emergent situation where there is no time for police to arrive to stop an attack. That makes this proposed law unconstitutional, and it would remain so even if you absurdly added language requiring any attacker to give 2 minutes notice to their victim before they begin the assault.

Remember: the lawless will always ignore the law, but will happily depend on their victim obeying it. It's not your job to make the lawless happy.

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