

Dear Legislators,

I am a 70 year old fifth generation Oregonian, rural resident, veteran, widower and CHL holder.

First - there is no firearm emergency in Oregon. Declaring such an emergency is a thinly disguised effort to bypass citizen outrage and citizen vote. The annual leading cause of death in Oregon from all causes is abortion, which stands at 8,218. Next is Alzheimer's at 1,278, followed by coronary heart disease at 1164, lung disease 1,071, lung cancer 940, hypertension 502, falls 386, pancreatic cancer 310, pneumonia/influenza 283.

There were a total of 113 homicides in 2018, a decline of 11%. 58 of those homicides involved firearms; 2 involved rifles or shotguns. There were 498 traffic deaths by comparison. Suicide claimed 762 Oregon lives in 2017. Oregon's suicide rate per 100,000 is 17.7; by firearm 9 per 100,000. That is slightly higher than the national average, but does not constitute an emergency in the state. Oregon has legalized physician assisted suicide, so doesn't it seem hypocritical to be using suicide as a rationale for this law?

What will HB 2505 do to change these statistics?

Forcing Oregon citizens to lock all legally owned firearms in their homes will do two things: 1) endanger the safety of those owners in the event of an imminent threat of bodily harm in their home; 2) make it less likely that someone unauthorized will access their firearms - but certainly NOT prevent access - merely make it more difficult. If someone breaks into my home while I am not there, they can steal firearms that are locked. There are a 100 ways to defeat any gun lock - it only takes time and the right tools.

It will also violate my 2nd Amendment Right under the US Constitution, which guarantees my natural right to self defense, the right to keep and bear arms for that purpose, in addition to keeping and bearing arms as a hedge against government tyranny. This law will directly impact my ability to keep and bear arms for self defense.

The law will additionally hold a firearm owner personally criminally liable for crimes committed using a firearm stolen from them. Let me give you an analogy. Suppose someone breaks into my locked car, steals it, and kills or injures someone with it in an accident. Are you now going to hold me criminally liable for the unauthorized use of my stolen car? Were it not actually proposed legislation, it would be laughable. I cannot be held liable under the US Constitution for a crime I did not commit. Will you now make failure to lock my car punishable by a fine and jail time??? This actually recently happened in Oregon, a stolen vehicle was used in the commission of a number of crimes, and when law enforcement tried to stop the vehicle, a high speed chase and accident occurred in which the perpetrator was killed, and two passengers injured. The owner of that car is not held liable for the crimes committed by the perpetrator, and should not be.

You should be aware by now that there are thousands of Oregonians who simply will not comply with this kind of law. I would guess that there are hundreds of thousands who would not comply. You can be sure that if this is signed into law, the first person charged and convicted under the law will absolutely appeal, and appeal all the way to the US Supreme Court, if necessary. It would not have a chance of being upheld by the US Supreme Court, since it very clearly violates both the 2nd and 4th Amendments to the Constitution.

Please do NOT pass this monstrosity into law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback in writing.

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