



Dear Oregon Legislatures,

My name is Chad Kernutt and I speak to you today as a concerned citizen. I am a veteran of the U.S. Army, I fought in the Iraq War and my career is in law enforcement. I am a husband and father of three children and I love my family very much, they are my world. I take very serious my individual rights that were given to me not only by my God but my Constitution and I consider myself very fortunate to be a citizen of this great nation. But there are things happening lately that are shaking me straight down to the core and I will no longer stay silent. The anti-second amendment/gun control elements in society with their very loud voices and bullying tactics have been influencing congress at the state and national levels and a lot of you in Oregon's senate and house of representatives have forgotten the majority of your constituents and the oath you took to the Oregon and U.S. Constitutions. I disagree with every bill that's been brought forward having to do with guns with the exception of the reciprocity bill because having armed responsible citizens who want to protect themselves, their family, and other citizens should be encouraged and not discouraged to carry everywhere they go. Now that the very troubling unconstitutional bill restricting ammunition and outlawing guns with a capacity of 6 rounds or more has been tabled, my biggest concerns is the bills telling me how to store my weapons in my own house and turning more areas into gun-free zones which does nothing but make people soft targets and defenseless against those who are not going to follow your laws no matter how many you come up with, they're called criminals for a reason.

The numbers are in for 2018 and the national average police response in a city for a high priority call is 5.7-11.1 minutes. That's a lot of time when you're going up against a bad guy with a gun. The average mass shooting is done within 3 minutes. That means that whatever is unfolding having to do with a bad guy who is armed is going to be over and done with by time the police show up. Whatever bad intentions and bad will that a criminal had in mind will have already been carried out and police will show up looking for the bad guy and trying to figure out what happened. Or you can arm yourself and always be prepared to defend yourself and those closest to you as well as those who cannot defend themselves. Depending on what you consider news and if you're watching or reading from a biased network with an agenda or not than you may or may not know that all over America good guys with guns are constantly stopping bad guys with guns and saving a lot of people from becoming victims which they would have been due to law enforcement not being there. Mass shooters and criminal minded people like soft targets, they like easy victims and will choose to target places where they don't expect resistance. Gun-free zones and residences where they don't expect to encounter an armed home owner are these exact places that criminals look for. What do those of you in congress think will happen to a homeowner when because of gun control laws gun owners have trigger locks on their weapons or they are locked up in a safe of some sort during the exact moment of a break in? Unless you happen to be right next to your gun during that exact moment and for a trigger lock be next to your gun with key in hand, you're going to be in real trouble. And because of these gun laws, if passed, they will render a law abiding gun owner with a self-defense weapon a victim by circumstance. A responsible gun owner teaches their children weapons safety and their children will grow up respecting guns as tools and a means of self-defense where you don't play with a gun and you don't point it at something you don't intend to shoot. That's the way I was raised and that's the way most kids with responsible gun owning parents are raised. We already have laws on the books for parents who are negligent gun owners. My daddy had 3 sayings that I think would fit all sides of the equation with these gun laws being proposed here today. 1. You can't fix stupid. 2. You have to stand for something or you will fall for anything. 3. Never miss a good opportunity to shut up when you know you're wrong. Your new proposed gun laws will do nothing to stop stupid irresponsible people, it will just make victims and criminals out of responsible law abiding gun owning citizens who just want to protect themselves and their families from the evils of this world. You can't defend yourself when the second your under attack your very means to self-defense is locked up and inaccessible to you in time to stop the threat.

I see every day the types of people heading into our prisons as well as the types of people being released back onto our streets and in most cases when it comes to violent offenders/predators, those who have no problem inflicting harm on others (Whether it's with rape, robbery, murder, or in the case of gang affiliated

people continuing their gang lifestyle and everything that goes with it.), these types of people largely will not be rehabilitated and have a very high rate of recidivism and when released back into the community go on to continue their path of preying on law abiding citizens. To make it more difficult for innocent law abiding civilians to defend themselves against these types of evil predators doesn't make any sense.

I would like to provide 3 examples today of why it's important not to disarm law abiding citizens that are true stories from my life. When I was 13 years old and stayed home sick from school one day, a criminal illegal immigrant broke in through our back door and entered the house. I grabbed my father's 30-06 hunting rifle from his closet and did exactly as I was taught. I put the magazine in and met the intruder chambering a round as he walked into my parents' bedroom. The intruder did a 180 degree turn and ran back out of the house. He was later picked up after burglarizing other houses in the neighborhood. Who knows what would have happened if a trigger lock was on the rifle or it was in the safe in the garage with the other weapons that I wouldn't have had access too. Maybe this intruder after I had seen his face would have done me harm, maybe not. Many criminals out there who rob people do harm their victims. I was fortunate that I was not put into a situation where I had to find out due to very dangerous gun laws that would have made criminals out of my parents for teaching me how to defend myself when access to the safe and the exits in a different part of the house between me and the criminal wasn't an option.

My last 2 examples are from 3 years ago before I moved out of Salem when I lived off of Lancaster Drive. My neighbors who lived behind me had family members living in the house who belonged to the notorious Surenos Hispanic gang and they knew who I was and what I did for a living and they did not like me. Shortly after we reported them to the authorities for throwing a house party that went until 3:00am in the morning where people were parking their rigs on our front yard, they proceeded to start harassing us on a consistent basis cursing at us in front of our children and throwing glass beer bottles in our back yard so they would shatter leaving glass everywhere where our children and dog would walk. One day they pulled up to the front of our house when I was weeding and one of the male members threatened to assault me while walking toward me with balled up fists. I told him that I was armed and to turn around and get back in his car while pulling my shirt up so he could see my concealed carry that was in my holster. He got in his car and left. Later in the same month during a verbal dispute with my neighbors after a female came out of the house hurling profanities at me and threatening that her boyfriend would take care of me, a male member then came out of the house and approached me pulling a knife on me threatening to kill me while advancing toward me and I again notified them that I was armed and was calling the police and they turned around and went back into their house. These last 2 examples could have turned out very differently if not for me having a concealed carry on me to protect myself and my family. If I had not had been armed at the time with my concealed carry pistol who knows what could have happened. How much longer would it have taken me to get to my locked up weapons to protect myself? How much longer would it have taken my wife to get to our locked up weapons to protect me or herself had they advanced into the house after harming me?

All of these new gun bills with the exception of reciprocity are an infringement on my constitutional rights granted to me by both the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions and I take very serious issue with them and am worried by the encroachment that some of those in government are trying to bring forth. I hope my words do not fall on deaf ears for the sake of my family and loved ones and all of those innocent law abiding citizens out there who have done nothing to deserve our government putting them in this kind of position. Thank you.