

Re: SB 978 Amendment Testimony

If you were interested in bringing a halt to the potential school, or other mass shootings, you would be going after better ways to identify and stop people with mental health issues instead of law-abiding citizens exercising their constitutional rights. In each of the last ten years in this state, there were an average of 383 motor vehicle crash deaths. In the overwhelming majority of these accidents, the cause was human error of some type (driving while intoxicated, asleep at the wheel, failure to use restraint systems, etc.). What are you going to do to solve THAT problem - make owning a vehicle against the law? The cars didn't cause the deaths any more than a fork or spoon cause obesity. It is clear that your intent is to eventually take firearms away from lawful citizens. Using that logic, it would follow that your solution to the homeless problem is to load them all up in trucks, and haul them up to Canada or down to Mexico.

To bring clarity into the discussion, compare Oregon's 3826 total motor vehicle crash deaths over the last ten years, with the total number of people killed or injured during school shootings in all of the United States: 107. The preventative measures should be obvious – keep impaired people from getting behind the wheel of a 3000 lb bullet. Do not punish or further endanger law-abiding citizens by taking their vehicles away, or similarly, prosecute them for trying to follow the law by installing a trigger lock cable removable by bolt cutters. Consider the homeowner with a home defense firearm. The practicality of any kind of trigger lock comes into question when this homeowner wakes to the sound of someone kicking in his or her front door at 3:00 AM. Fast-forward to the resultant crime scene with a chalk outline of the deceased homeowner surrounded by the contents of a drawer, emptied in the search for the trigger lock key. The firearm itself is gone of course, taken by the intruder who knows the trigger lock can be defeated by watching any number of YouTube videos on the subject. If your proposed storage liability amendments become law, the ensuing wrongful death lawsuit should do wonders for any of your next reelection campaigns.

Legal liability for actions after-the-fact is like arresting a car dealer for selling a vehicle that was involved in a wreck two years later, because the buyer removed the seat belts, causing the deceased to go through the windshield. Using that rationality, you would prosecute a car dealer because a car stolen off his lot was used to getaway from a bank robbery, even though the ignition keys were in a locked key box, inside a locked office located within a locked perimeter fence.

Current CHL holders in Oregon have had to prove proficiency with a firearm, and undergo classroom instruction that covers multiple topics including Oregon law, defense tactics and handgun safety. The primary reason no other state shares reciprocity with this state, is that Oregon feels the training requirements (or lack thereof) of other states do not measure up to that required by Oregon law. There is no good reason to force further restrictions on those who have qualified, undergone a background check and paid for the right to carry a concealed handgun.

As usual, the Second Amendment is under attack because of the attack's political popularity. What does that say about the First or Fourth Amendment? How long will it be before the political winds blow farther to the left, and this august body begins to whittle away at those amendments?

For those that may have forgotten, the last four words found in the Constitution's Second Amendment are "shall not be infringed".

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