

Dear Senators,

I urge you to vote "No" on the -1 amendment to SB 978 which is scheduled for a hearing on April 2. This amendment is a monstrosity and is nothing but a compendium of bad ideas.

Raising the legal age to purchase firearms is unlikely to have any effect on public safety and it will deny Oregonians who are old enough to serve in the military the right to buy firearms.

Safe storage laws have been shown to correlate with an increase in the murder rate. This is likely because Americans use guns 2 million times a year to prevent crimes (see the research of criminologist Gary Kleck and others) and safe storage laws make it more difficult for citizens to access guns when they need to protect themselves.

Making people whose guns are stolen responsible for what criminals do with them afterward would be like making car owners responsible for what criminals do with the cars after they are stolen. This is ridiculous. And requiring people to sell guns with a cable or trigger lock will do nothing for public safety and is simply a burden on gun owners.

The Oregon CHL system has been working well and shouldn't be changed to make it more difficult for law abiding citizens to get and use a CHL. Charging a higher fee for CHL licenses and requiring demonstration of competency will likely reduce the number of CHL licenses. This will make Oregonians less safe.

Creating more gun free zones in public areas will increase the likelihood of more mass shootings. According to the Crime Prevention Research Center 98% of mass shootings take place in gun free zones. Creating more gun free zones simply makes it more likely that mass shootings will occur.

The net result of this amendment would be to create burdens for law abiding gun owners and make Oregon less safe.

Regards,

Richard Halley

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