

Submitted Testimony RE: SB 978 and Amendments

Oregon is in trouble. The State of Oregon PERS system is fatally drowning and threatening to take the entire State down with it. Oregon ranks at the bottom of the nation in school achievement. Oregon is number one in mature adult opioid abuse. Portland is one of the nation's leading areas for sex trafficking and child sex abuse. Oregon is one of the leaders in the export of illegal marijuana. The Oregon Health Plan is drowning in cost over-runs. Homelessness and drug abuse are out of control. The Oregon fishing industry is teetering on the brink of extinction with sport fishing runs decimated due to mismanagement. Summer wildfires burn hundreds of thousands of acres of good timber every year because of woodland mismanagement. The list goes on and on and on.....

And what are legislators doing about these SERIOUS issues? Well, frankly nothing or very, very little. Instead they're focusing on the major issues like how much people should be charged for rent or should daylight savings be permanent or what size a rifle clip should be or whether a legal aged adult should be able to purchase a firearm.

Senate Bill 978 and Amendments is yet another "nonsense", time and money wasting bill. But even sadder, is the fact that the Legislators that are permitting this are stomping all over wonderful, law-abiding citizens' rights. And, trust me on this, they won't take its passage sitting down. The bulk of this bill amounts to illegal taking of persons' property without just compensation. The US Supreme Court has historically rejected these types of bills. Banning of firearms runs in opposition of the Heller decision by the US Supreme Court. And, how in the world can you defend punishing someone for a stranger's actions several years down the road? If this bill passes, it WILL be challenged all the way to the Supreme Court. How is that good for the State of Oregon? How many millions of dollars will it cost the taxpayers this time to pay to defend this legislation?

If one is paying attention, you will see more and more "Push Back", "I Won't Comply" slogans surfacing. Please hear this: There are likely tens of thousands of legal gun owners who will give up their lives to protect their rights to own and bear firearms. Give up their lives. Are you legislators who want this passed willing to do the same thing? If someone's door gets kicked down because some nitwit DA wants to punish someone for maybe not properly locking up a firearm, there's likely to be gun fire exchanged. The blood will be on you.

There are plenty of very strict laws already on the books to allow prosecution of individuals who, say, fail to properly lock up a firearm to keep it out of the hands of children, or who goes off their rocker and decides to use a gun to kill or harm someone, or who walks around with a gun concealed in their pants without a permit, or uses a firearm in the commission of a crime, or God forbid, even so much as waves a gun around in public. **WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE NEW GUN LAWS – WE HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH ALREADY TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE!**

Senate Bill 978 and its amendments need to come to a stop immediately once and forever. Quit wasting taxpaying Oregonian's time and money.

Submitted By: Richard Siewert, Native Oregonian since birth.

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