

Constituent Testimony for **NO** on Senate Bill 978

The "Dash 1" amendments proposed for SB978 are egregious, overreaching, and ridiculous. Most of these policies are solutions to problems that don't exist. Law-abiding gun owners are taking the rap for crimes they didn't commit. Also, the old "gut and stuff" of this bill is dishonest and isn't going unnoticed.

Minimum Age for Firearms Sales

To purport that an individual 18 years of age can fight for our country but can't defend themselves is nothing short of blasphemy. The intention of this policy is to reduce access so that immature individuals won't misuse certain inanimate objects. While this is a noble feat, the proposed blanket solution goes too far by restricting too many individuals, the majority being able to own them with no issues. Additionally, according to data from the US Mass Shootings database (1982-2019) on Motherjones.com, a small minority of only 8% involve someone under 21 years of age.

Firearms Storage Requirements

Denying citizens quick access to their personal defense firearms in the case of an emergency has consequences. A citizen could invest in technologies that allow quicker access than your standard cable lock but, that effectively instills a financial barrier to useful defensive firearm ownership in the event of a home invasion. It also renders firearms stored in vehicles useless that would have to be locked in a glove box or trunk rather than a door pocket, center console, etc for easy access when the need arises.

The cheap, keyed cable locks, that undoubtedly the proponents of this bill have in mind, are so time consuming, cumbersome and clumsy that one would be better off throwing the locked firearm at an assailant rather than taking the time to find the key, insert the key, disengage the lock, remove the cable, load a magazine, rack a round, and point the firearm at an assailant in the heat of the moment. Think about that.

If this bill passes as amended, the only way I can retain speedy access to my firearms in my home or car is to carry them on my person, in a holster, including while I sleep. While I welcome the excuse to holster-up more often, I doubt the intention here was to force folks to carry firearms more often and in more places.

Transfers/Loss/Theft Reporting

Perhaps one of the most blasphemous aspects of this bill is that transferee responsibilities are imposed on transferors instead of solely implicating the offender. This practice further exacerbates the growing trend of the eradication of personal responsibility. Prosecuting one party for the wrongdoings of another is counterproductive and simply just horse feathers. Why would it not be the responsibility of the firearms owner to ensure they have the proper means necessary to properly store firearms?

Its one thing to mandate that folks report stolen firearms, but to implicate them with liability in crimes with which they have no material participation is wrong. Sure, prosecuting for not reporting a known theft makes sense. Anything further is a vast overreach.

Undatable and Untraceable Firearms

80% lowers and untraceable firearms are the exception. The vast majority of individuals partaking in the finishing of the last 20% of a receiver, do so because they enjoy the mechanics, tooling, and manufacturing. The untraceable aspect of these devices has not been a focal point in any substantial shooting in recent history. Is there enough proof that the current system is being abused to warrant this new policy? Not that I can find. This simply seems like a cheap shot to hit firearms enthusiasts in any way they can with no proof of concept. This policy is a solution to a problem that doesn't exist. Besides, nefarious individuals will still file the serial numbers off of firearms, as they always have, and the only folks complying with this new policy will be folks that were not a threat in the first place.

Moving to 3D printed firearms, we shouldn't be regulating an undetectable firearm any differently on the front end. I suggest we make stiffer sentences on the back end for crimes committed with or while in the possession of a 3D printed gun. This should have the same effect while also not punishing those who don't inflict harm.

Concealed Handgun License Fees

We should not be charging law-abiding citizens any amount in order for them to exercise their right to bear arms in self-defense, let alone consider this price increase. Take the hint from 14 other states that have passed constitutional/permitless carry. The movement is growing, and Oregon will still be looking like an idiot in the corner wearing a dunce hat.

Local Authority to Regulate Firearms in Public Buildings

The policies in this section will do nothing but cause additional harm. Has there been problems with law-abiding citizens carrying lawfully concealed firearms at airports, schools, public buildings, etc to warrant this legislation? No. The folks with intent to cause harm aren't folks with permits. This is another policy that is an answer to a problem that doesn't exist. Gun free zones are sitting duck zones. The Washington Post found that 86% of mass public shootings took place in gun-free zones from 2009 to 2016. Is it the intention of the proponents of these amendments to subject more people in more populated places to violence in which they can't defend themselves? If anything, we should be knocking down the barriers to protecting ourselves, not making us more defenseless against those with ill will that do not follow laws to begin with.

Vote No on SB978

I ask that the legislators vote no on these amendments and this bill as a whole for the reasons stated above. In closing, as Benjamin Franklin said, "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

Sincerely and Respectfully,



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Constituent

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