

To whom it may concern,

As you are well aware, the proposed SB978 is in direct violation of the 2nd amendment right. Of the many cases brought to your attentions for why, I will first focus on the language 'The right to bear arms' - for all intents and purposes having quick and ready access to our firearms is the right of the people. Equally it is our right to decide how we choose to defend ourselves and exercise that right.

Moreover, statistics will show that there are fewer gun related incidents when involving an owner of a CHL - this includes the two most targeted causes for contemporary gun-restrictive legislature, suicide and acts of domestic terrorism.

What our brief history of domestic terrorism does indicate is that there are far more concerning norms toward violence than we care to acknowledge. Such events draw on our emotions, leading us to neglect the real variables at play because an the immediate bandaid is to shift focus and blame to the instrument that brought the fear, the sadness, the grief. There will be no 'quick fix' to this problem, even if the 2nd amendment were to be repealed altogether.

I suggest the legislature as well as the writers of this bill strongly reconsider their motivation for supporting such a limiting piece of law that directly impacts one of the most sacred amendments to US Citizens.

Why not focus your energies on providing gun safety in public education? Focus on teaching young people the differences in violence acted out on a TV screen, website, social media, video games, etc. Teach them empathy and then teach them how firearms must be treated with the utmost respect. Focus your energy on opening up free gun safety courses to the public, normalize safe gun practices. Ally with hunters, companies, dealers, and training personnel to teach these values with credibility.

My rebuttle to SB978 is to require all parents offering their children unmonitored access to violence via technology be required to send their children to workshops that delineate portrayed violence from real violence and furthermore teach those same kids proper safe handling of firearms. I recommend the legislature have some trust in the Fix NICS effort. And I lastly recommend the legislature of Oregon refrain from monopolizing their time on 2nd amendment issues to appease Oregonian's "majority court of public opinion" that wants more gun restrictions. That "majority" is limited to metropolitan areas and does not accurately represent the diverse needs or values of those occupying more than 70% of Oregon's land.

Please stop wasting tax payer money on restricting the 2nd amendment. Put that money into some honest change, even if that means upsetting parents and other voters in densely populated areas. Spend it on researching how and when violent behavior develops. Focus on education plans that address the human part of the issues you seek to eliminate. And Please remember that no matter what you do there will always be outliers; bad things do happen and there is no way to 100% eliminate that. No matter how horrible gun related violence or gun related tragedy is, there may be a moment of hindsight where you, the legislature, wish you had not restricted and ultimately striped We The People of Our Rights.

Thanks for the consideration.

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