

I am respectfully requesting that you do everything you can to stop the passage of SB 978.

Please stop creating more rules and regulations concerning firearms. The laws that are currently in force are more than adequate to guide law abiding citizens. No number of additional laws, rules, regulations, etc., etc. will stop criminals and the mentally ill from committing violence.

The purpose of a law is to make society safer in some specific way. The currently proposed laws add details upon details that in no way effect the safety of society. Law abiding citizens who own firearms "are not disposed to commit the crime which the laws mean to prevent ... (these laws) subject the innocent to all the disagreeable circumstances that should only fall on the guilty ... It certainly makes the situation of the assaulted worse, and of the assailants better, and rather encourages than prevents murder, as it requires less courage to attack unarmed than armed persons." (Cesare Beccaria's "Essay on Crimes and Punishments" English translation 1809) This quote from more than 200 years ago states the case perfectly, and shows that this is not an immediate or temporary problem.

While I sympathize with your desire to "do something" about criminal violence, I disagree with the method. More laws are not the answer. I repeat, no number of additional laws, rules, regulations, etc., etc. will stop criminals and the mentally ill from committing violence.

What you, as a representative in Salem, can do is insist on enforcement of the existing laws, guide the legal system to stop the release of violent offenders, and assist in the development of effective mental health systems to address mental illness.

Please do everything that you can to stop the passage of SB 978 and all other proposed legislation concerning firearms.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely,
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