

Committee Members,

Every election cycle there is talk of common sense and compromise. SB 978 has neither! It is nothing but metropolitan liberal politicians telling the rest of the state(Jefferson State?) how it will be!

Murder has been against the law since there were laws. Black hearts do black deeds but blaming the tool won't eliminate the black heart. The news media would have every one believing that we lead the world in mass shootings. Here are paragraphs from an article in the Chicago Tribune written by John Lotte Jr titled "Gun-free zones invite mass shootings" "America doesn't lead the world in mass shootings. We're not even close. Just last month, a school shooting in the Crimea, Russia, killed 20 people and wounded 65 others. But Americans usually don't hear about such events."

"Of the 97 countries where we identified mass public shootings, the U.S. ranks 64<sup>th</sup> per capita in its rate of attacks and 65<sup>th</sup> in fatalities. Major European countries, such as Norway, Finland, France, Switzerland and Russia, all have at least 25 percent higher per capita murder rates from mass public shootings."

You would allow 18 yr olds to be stripped of their ability to purchase a firearm but your considering changing the voting age to 16! If older teens can't be trusted how can younger ones? This bill would make criminals of a lot law abiding Oregonians.

To paraphrase Ben Franklin -Democracy is two wolfs and a lamb discussing what is for lunch. Liberty is having the ability to influence the vote! Please listen to the rest of the state. This is a bad bill!

Thank you

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