

Bend, Or 97701
March 29, 2019

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am a 71 year old retired forester with the US Forest Service. I like to shoot. We live in a rural area. One of my neighbors was recently shot and killed in the street. The authorities advised the entire neighborhood to stay indoors. It was comforting to immediately have access to a firearm to keep at hand without having to look for keys or to open safes. We keep a firearm handy to defend our home and lives with, should such a horrible need ever arise.

Since you are amending Senate Bill 978 on the fly, I am not sure what all it will contain should it reach the floor for consideration. From what I already know, should it become law, it will dramatically and unfairly restrict my ability to maintain a firearm for shooting and self-defense. My personal issues with it will be multiplied by hundreds of thousands of innocent, law-abiding Oregonians who hunt, shoot for recreation, and need to protect themselves and their families. We will all be instant felons.

Why on Earth would you want to do this to us?

I understand you want to make children and adults be and feel safe. God knows we all want that. But you failed to ask one simple question:

“What will work?”

If you ask that question and honestly answer it, you will understand that legislating against the firearm itself will fail dismally. All deranged individuals and those with criminal intent do not follow or respect laws. They will get the firearm they want in one of a hundred different ways. You cannot legislate against criminal intent by restricting the firearm characteristics, access and ammunition purchases of honest, law-abiding citizens.

Besides the fact that any bill you pass will have zero impact on stopping a deranged individual from committing a horrible act, there is something else to consider. Will it hold up to the inevitable legal challenges that will follow if Governor Brown is foolish enough to sign it into law? The answer is quite simple: No, it will not. Every gun owner in the state will support numerous organizations to file litigation. It could not possibly survive challenges at the state level, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, or the Supreme Court.

Now, think of all the money the state will spend on this litigation. This state is basically bankrupt, and is ignoring the PERS problem as well as many others. We have done nothing so far to deal with this bankruptcy except to propose more legislation which will dig our hole even deeper.

Please, hear what the speakers said at the Capitol on Saturday. Try to address the question of “What Will Work?” There are smart people out there that if challenged with that question, might propose

something that would have a chance of accomplishing the objectives of stopping senseless violence and protecting our children.

As a citizen of Oregon, I am an innocent victim of any legislation proposed to be enacted that affects all of Oregon. I am asking you to please withdraw Bill 978. It is just another useless ploy to impress the constituents of the anonymous senators who are proposing and liberally amending it.

Thank you for allowing me the time to present my views and this testimony.

Sincerely,

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