

To the Judiciary Committee:

First let me state that the fact that I have to even testify regarding SB 978 and Amendments (hereinafter referred to as SB 978) and its nefarious nature and attack on our 2nd Amendment rights as enumerated in the United States Constitution is disturbing in the highest degree. Where this committee and the Oregon legislature as a body should be concerning itself with the things it is mandated to do such as maintain and monitor our infrastructures and the like for example, it chooses to focus valuable time and resources on things like SB 978 and its tyrannical and useless provisions. Which in turn forces me to invest my time and resources to express my opposition to such ridiculous and unnecessary legislation, which I highly resent having to do in order to simply protect self-evident rights.

SB 978 is extremely dangerous in that it draws focus away from real solutions that would actually have a positive impact on the issues SB 978 professes to address. In fact, any serious and intelligent person could easily see if they take the time to look, SB 978 attempts to correct problems and issues that don't even exist. For example, the bill has a provision that could potentially ban the possession or carrying of a firearm in public places. For what reason? There are thousands of people legally carrying firearms in, around, and on public places in Oregon, even in this very Capitol building, every day. Yet the number of times that the LEGAL carrying of firearms in public places has been a problem in any way is practically zero if not actually zero to date. The statistics that show this to be true are easily obtainable so it would be pointless to include them in this testimony. Now let's look at the positive aspects of legal firearm carry in public places in Oregon. There are numerous studies, statistics and evidence that show the legal use of firearms in the defense of self or others by citizens in both public and private places has saved many lives in Oregon. Again the studies and statistics referred to are also easily obtainable. So based on the foregoing, it can easily be deduced that should SB 978 become law the opportunity to legally possess, carry, and use a firearm in the defense of self and others in Oregon would be drastically curtailed. This in turn will reduce the number of lives saved because of the legal use of firearms. So any reasonable and intelligent person should easily come to the conclusion that should SB 978 become law it will cost lives, not save them.

The same logic can be applied to every other provision of SB 978. It should be obvious that you cannot legislate away evil, negligent, stupid, or bad behavior. If that were the case, murder by any means, theft, rape, child abuse etc. would never happen because there are already laws in effect that are intended to prevent those things. SB 978 is no exception. All it does is impede and infringe on the Constitutional rights of law abiding gun owners and non-gun owners alike. Those who have no respect for the law or are ignorant of the law will also ignore and disrespect SB 978 if it were to become law as well.

It is my contention that those who are in support of SB 978 are or should be aware that it is useless, ineffective, and dangerous and is designed to skirt around, curtail, and infringe upon the constitutional 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms. I therefore respectfully request the members of this committee and the legislature at large reject this blatantly unconstitutional legislation.

Sincerely,

Patrick Iler and Gale Iler
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