

I am offering the following testimony in strong opposition to Senate Bill 978-1 as amended.

As an Oregon resident who lives in a rural area, I find SB 978 an ill-thought-out, poorly executed attempt at firearm safety that will significantly reduce my personal safety, and that of my family and loved ones.

This measure attempts to limit criminal gun violence and accidental and intentional discharges by minors, by restricting and delaying law-abiding citizens access to firearms.

Some of these goals are worthy, such as reducing minors' unfettered access to firearms without the presence of a supervising adult.

However, Section 6 contains troubling language, specifically by leaving it unclear about when a firearm is under authorized 'control': insisting "firearm security" precludes immediate firearm access by law abiding adults in their own homes is absurd and only invites criminal attacks. If criminals know their government makes citizens unable to promptly defend themselves because firearms are locked up and not available, any deterrence afforded to armed citizens is moot.

I am a well-trained and responsible gun owner. I practice regularly and am a certified Range Safety Officer. I support background checks for firearm purchases. I support criminal negligence charges for parents who fail to secure their firearms when children are in the home unsupervised and that firearm injures someone.

I do not support intrusive and questionably-effective feel-good measures, including additional delays in access to lawful firearms in a life-safety emergency. Plainly stated, that's crazy.

I am licensed to carry a concealed firearm, and do so when appropriate. I also have firearms available to me and to my wife when we are at home. We live where we must take these precautions because of our remote location.

Reaction time to a lethal threat is crucial. Life or death may be fractions of a second apart. Any delay, including finding keys, retrieving a combination, unlocking doors to 'gun rooms' or mandatory "safes" and unlocking and removing mandated trigger guards, merely puts us and other law abiding homeowners at a lethal disadvantage.

Be assured an armed home invader will NOT have a locked-up and unloaded firearm.

SB 978-1 is a certain killer of law abiding citizens.

Delete this ill-considered Amendment.

John Fowler

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