

Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dan Wellert. I am an Oregon resident and live in Salem, OR. Below is my testimony.

Facts:

The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigations) says that in 2017 that there were 10,982 homicides committed with firearms in the US. Only 403 of those were committed with a rifle (3.6% of firearm homicides) of ANY type let alone an AR-15.

Meanwhile the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) says that in 2017 that there were 10,874 fatalities from DUI wrecks on US roads.

Those 2 numbers are statistically identical so DUI and alcohol are the same problem nationally BUT the firearm homicide stat is skewed by the 10 most dangerous US cities each of which is governed by Democrats and each has the strictest gun laws. The FBI has reported that 80% of firearm homicides are gang related.

Since we are Oregon, lets look at the Oregon numbers.

The FBI says that in 2017 that there were 100 TOTAL Homicides in Oregon and only 58 of those homicides committed with firearms in Oregon which is LOWER than the national average. Only 2 of those were committed with a rifle (3.4% of firearm homicides or 2% of TOTAL homicides) of ANY type let alone an AR-15.

The NHTSA says that in 2017 that there were 137 fatalities from DUI wrecks on Oregon roads which is not only HIGHER than the national average, it exceeds the TOTAL number of ALL homicides in Oregon in 2017 (100) by 37%!

In other words, you are 1.37 times more likely to be killed by a Drunk Driver than you are to the victim of ANY type of homicide in Oregon. You are 2.4 times more likely to be killed by a Drunk Driver than you are to the victim of a homicide committed with a firearm in Oregon. You are 68.5 times more likely to be killed by a Drunk Driver than you are to the victim of a homicide committed with a rifle in Oregon.

Why do Oregon lawmakers continue to press for "Gun Control" when we CLEARLY need more DUI/Alcohol control? The answer is NOT for safety.

<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812603>

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2017/crime-in-the-u.s.-2017/topic-pages/tables/expanded-homicide-data-table-8.xls>

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2017/crime-in-the-u.s.-2017/topic-pages/tables/table-20>

Comment:

Your current bill (SB 978) is now being stuffed full of amendments, which include:

\* SB 978 requires firearms, even self defense firearms to be locked up. Under this bill citizens can be prosecuted even if they did lock up their guns with a cable lock if someone has "access" to a device to defeat the lock. Which of course, anyone who has access to almost any tool can gain entry. No device,

safe or lockbox is criminal proof. In addition, SB 978 allows for civil liability even if gun owners locked up their firearm(s) but a thief was able to break into the safe, lockbox, etc. I have a lock on the doors of my house, that is all that I need. If I had children in or visiting my house it is my responsibility as a gun owner to take the means necessary to ensure a child cannot access a firearm. Accountability via existing law already exists for that.

\* Would hold gun owners responsible for two years for guns they "transferred/sold" unless they could prove the transferred gun had a trigger lock or cable lock. This turns our legal system on its head by making a citizen guilty until they somehow prove themselves innocent. This is ludicrous.

\* This bill would allow cities, counties, metropolitan service districts, airports, schools, colleges and universities to ban CHL holders from "public buildings." Making them all so-called "gun free zones". SB 978 would ban CHL holders from airports. Not just the terminal areas outside the ticketed passenger entries which is already against federal law it bans licensed conceal carry holders from parking lots and grounds "adjacent" to parking lots. Even picking up a family member in a vehicle at the passenger arrival areas would be a felony. Everyone recognizes that gun-free zones leave shooting victims defenseless.

Have this bill's sponsors lost all common sense? Psychopaths and criminals do not follow laws, yet lawmakers supporting this bill continue to want to take law-abiding citizens' rights. Gun-free zones don't make them ANY safer. Just look at the locations of mass shootings. People and CHL holders who follow the law and legally own guns are not a statistically confirmed problem. This is a fact you cannot disprove. Each day across the United States armed, law-abiding citizens save citizens' lives (again a undeniable fact). Like many other concerned Oregonians, I ask this bill be struck down and not move forward.

Thank you,

Dan Wellert  
Citizen  
Salem, OR