

From: [Arthur Chaput](#)
To: [SJUD Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 978 Gut-and-stuff
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I oppose SB 978 in its amended form. This bill has multiple problems, and will do nothing to slow or prevent gun violence.

I oppose mandating serial numbers on firearms. Serial numbers weren't required at manufacture until 1968. Millions of guns in common circulation do not have serial numbers, and merely possessing one of them will make me a criminal. If this law passes, I'll have to stamp a serial number on my grandfather's old single-shot shotgun--and for what? What possible public safety benefit comes from that?

I also oppose SB 978 because it mandates safe storage laws that we already know, thanks to *D.C. vs Heller*, are unconstitutional. Aside from being unconstitutional, however, they make no sense. My wife and I live in a 1 bedroom apartment, and have no children. Why should I be required to further secure my firearms? Whose safety does that promote? Why would locking them in a glass case or securing them with a bicycle lock make the world a better place? Anyone in my apartment unsupervised will have already defeated a deadbolt.

Next, I oppose the provisions of this bill that create a special exemption to Oregon age discrimination law simply for the benefit of Dick's sporting goods. This is ridiculous. 18 year old people are adults; they can be drafted, have children, buy houses, start companies. Why then can't they exercise their core constitutional right to self-protection? (I'll note the irony of some sponsors of this bill also supporting efforts to lower the voting age to 16. Absolutely absurd).

Finally, I reject the opinion--held, apparently, by sponsors of SB 978--that I may be responsible for the actions of thieves who steal my property. As stated above, my door has a deadbolt. Why should I be responsible if someone picks that lock, steals my gun, and commits murder with it? How does it make sense that I won't be responsible in the same scenario so long as my gun has a bike lock through the trigger guard?

Senate bill 978 is bad bill, and deserves to die. Sponsoring this bill is bad enough--but declaring it an "emergency" bill, and therefore exempt from the initiative petition system, is unconscionable. The Committee should be ashamed of itself.

-Arthur Chaput, Beaverton, Oregon