

SB 978-1 Testimony

Good morning Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

My name is Elaine Woods, I am resident of Beaverton, and I am here to testify in opposition to SB 978-1.

I object to several portions of this bill, but in particular I would like to address Section 6, which would require home storage to include a trigger lock for the firearm and for the gun to also be in a locked container with a tamper proof lock.

This requirement puts every homeowner and renter at great risk, even if they legally own and carefully secure their guns from unauthorized access. If someone were to break into my home, I would not have time to unlock the gun safe and then remove the trigger lock in order to access the gun to protect myself. This is especially true in stressful situations.

The average response time in the Beaverton area seems to be from 6-10 minutes. A lot can happen in six minutes. If I am in danger, I want simply to be able to open my gun safe quickly to defend myself.

By hampering the safety of every responsible gun owner, you are endangering the very citizens that you are elected to this office to serve. If you were to approve this law, you would force us to choose between complying with a dangerous law or commit what you would be labeling a crime – the ability to protect myself and my family.

I have always obeyed the law. Criminals do not care what the law says. They will always manage to get a weapon of some kind to harm the defenseless. Personally, I will choose to be able to protect myself and my loved ones. I'm sure that you would do the same.

Please do the right thing for your constituents and the people of Oregon and vote NO on SB 978-1. Thank you.