

HB 2505 Testimony

This proposed legislation is over controlling to the point that a weapon for self protection would be too difficult to access in case of an emergency. Living in a rural area, sheriffs are 10 to 20 minutes or longer away when a call is made. In the case of life threatening situations having to go through the process of unlocking guns as proposed would not provide self protection in an emergency. A local situation occurred just recently when a young mother used a gun to defend herself from an enraged ex-boyfriend that broke down her front door. If you had to have all of the security precautions proposed, she likely would have been severely injured or killed. While gun owners I know are responsible to keep their guns secure, this legislation would make just about everyone I know a criminal.

In addition to self protection, on numerous occasions I have been startled in the middle of the night with chickens "screaming" their heads off as a racoon had gotten into the chicken yard. In fact one night it was a whole family that appeared to be one adult and three juvenile racoons. If I had to go through all the hassle for unlocking my gun, I don't know how many chickens I would have lost because of the delay. We also have had cougar attacks in the area with a number of animals killed, both livestock and pets. It is comforting to have a gun handy and ready for use at the first sign of a problem. While you may think that locking up guns will protect the public, it puts the individual at risk to protect themselves or their property.

When you are asking for a review of locks to occur in the future, there is no ability to review and evaluate designs to see if they are not only secure but not so overly complicated that they would hinder the owner in a high stress emergency situation. This review needs to be taken before laws are adopted not after.

A terrible part of this section is to make someone liable for another person's actions. To put it simply this would be the same as blaming someone if their car was stolen and if the car thief hit someone, the original owner would be liable. It appears to be a twist on the federal law that prohibits people from blaming gun manufacturers if someone uses a gun to commit a crime. This liability section to blame someone whose guns are stolen and not place the full blame on the thief is not reasonable.

The issue of locking up guns was one of the issues before the Supreme Court in what is known as the Heller Decision. The finding of the Court is struck down the portion of the Firearms Regulations Act that requires all firearms including rifles and shotguns be kept "unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock".

The proposal before you is a violation of the US Bill of Rights and would also violate the Oregon Constitution. I urge you to stop this well intentioned bill but is impractical and illegal.

Sincerely Submitted

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