

To the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Circumstances preventing my attendance, I hereby present my testimony regarding SB 978. I am against restricting firearms, even a limited number of them, from the general public. Our Founding Fathers acknowledged that the safety of the nation stems directly from the people being able to formidably defend themselves, either from inside criminals or from outside powers.

The restriction of firearms always precedes the utter removal of them from the hands of the citizenry. The loss of this liberty is always followed by tyranny. It happened in 20th century Germany when Hitler took control, and with the Nazi persecution of the Jews in the cruel and infamous concentration camps, which ought *never* to be forgotten! It happened in France and Italy when their leaders became Fascists and subsequently formed the Axis with Germany and Japan, uniting to destroy *all* liberty. The same will happen here should firearms be restricted any further in this state than they are already.

I agree that the cowards who slaughter children in the schools ought to be curbed, like the rest of terrorism in general. In their conduct, they manifest the same intolerance toward those of differing beliefs as Hitler did toward the Jewish people. It has been human nature to hunt to near extinction anything of which they are afraid, and unless prevented by someone—either by the government of the land or by the Government of Heaven itself—never stop at near extinction. This happened to the wolves and the Native Americans, and it is now happening to our firearms across the country. In lands such as Canada, Great Britain, Australia and Europe, where firearms have been removed completely from their citizens, crime rates have increased exponentially! While gun-related crime per se is lower in these places than it was before, it has not disappeared altogether, because the law restricts only its law-biding citizens. Criminals never have and never will abide by the law unless they choose to abandon the occupation of crime. Though it may appeal to some to remove guns from the law-biding citizens in the land of the free, this course will not—indeed, cannot—fully restrict criminals for they who are bent on committing crime will commit it regardless of laws or regulations, be they religious or political.

Taking away guns will have regrettable consequences! Criminals will no longer fear to invade our homes nor to harass our families, and there are simply not enough police to prevent the downhill slide of civilization should this course be adopted.

I make this plea to you, the honorable members of the legislature of the state of Oregon: For the sake of liberty, do not amend the Constitution nor demean its noble character by enacting laws to impair the freedom of each Oregonian, that the people may retain the right to “bear arms for the defense of themselves or the state.”

Sincerely,
J. M. Nolan
A resident of the state of