

My name is David M. Vaughn. I am 61 years of age. I served in the US Navy from 1982 to 1988.

Everyone is concerned about firearms and the violence committed with them in Oregon and the United States. They are concerned with the safety of their children and for themselves. After listening to the testimony for 2 hours during the hearing it is my opinion that SB978-1 does not truly address these concerns. What the bill does do is to criminalize most law abiding citizens for actions outside of their control should a weapon is stolen or limit legitimate access to weapons and ammunition or make people so fearful of owning a weapon that they choose to permanently remove them from their possession.

The biggest and most pressing problem is ignored by both sides of the issue. The problem is violence. Violence is condoned and encouraged and celebrated in our society through movies (Dirty Harry, The Expendables, and Rocky), books (A Clockwork Orange, American Psycho, and The Butcher Boy), and sports (The NFL, Boxing, The NHL) and almost any first person shooter video game. We have been taught to use the most expedient method of getting even with the other guy. Pick up a fire arm.

The problem began some 60 years ago when people began exerting their rights while forgetting that each right has duties and responsibilities. While sending our children to school to learn math and reading we didn't teach them anything about parenting or controlling themselves. They have been taught that they have rights but not taught that those rights end at the end of their own nose.

The latest examples of this are the beating death of the 10 year old girl in Colorado by a teenager with a metal pipe and of course the girl in South Carolina that died from a fight in class with a classmate. These things happen because society gradually changed from one of personal responsibility to one of personal rights.

Fixing this problem cannot be done by putting a bill like SB978-1 into effect since it does not address the root cause of violence. It has taken years to get to this place and it will take years to get us away from it because even if every firearm on the planet were to be removed at one once people will find new weapons to use against each other.

Human ingenuity will overcome any legislation written by idealists. Growing up in a very rural part of Pennsylvania I had to entertain myself even though I had access to firearms. My friends and I came up with "toys" that would now overcome modern body armor, delivery methods for gasses and ignition systems that cannot be quenched. We didn't know that these things were dangerous and could be used for violence. We were just trying to fix problems that we had in our own lives and we were just bored. So imagine what happens when someone who is the victim of a face book attack gets motivated and uses common household items and toys to get even. You can't ban everything that can be used as a weapon.

The point is that it will take generations to fix this if education and a strong family values are the basis of changing the attitudes toward violence. Movies, Video games, Sports, and Books will continue the feeding the problem but with proper education and mentoring from teachers and adults children can be educated to understand that violence is used only for self defense and not vengeance, or greed, or to settle personal issues. Education starting in kindergarten that shows children how to respect a weapon and how to make sure it is safe as well as these items are not toys. Mandatory hunter safety classes regardless of where in the state the child lives to ensure knowledge of safe handling and storage because I have seen adults that were not properly instructed in this information that owned weapons.

I urge you to please vote no on SB978-1.