

I am writing in opposition to SB 978 - 1. This is a gut-and-stuff bill that severely limits the rights of honest Oregonians to possess and use firearms, for no identifiable public good.

The bill is designated as a response to a declared emergency, although no emergency exists. Changing the bill's contents at the last minute, and declaring it an emergency measure, are clearly tactics to push the bill through the legislature while avoiding significant public debate. I oppose this travesty of the democratic process.

The bill allows firearms dealers to refuse to sell firearms and accessories to individuals aged 18 to 21, although they are otherwise permitted to possess firearms. It is a severe imposition on the civil rights of a class of citizens by virtue of their age. I can find no justification for such discriminatory legislation. I oppose it.

The bill prohibits the sale of items described as unfinished frames, downloadable, unserialized and untraceable firearms. According to Federal law such items are legal to make for personal use. They have not been associated with criminal behavior in Oregon. Prohibiting them would serve no public benefit. Further, by the objects' intrinsic nature, it would be impossible to prove ownership. Will the State ban possession of electric drills, hand files and raw chunks of metal? This prohibition is based on hysteria, not logic, and I oppose it.

The bill bans possession of legally concealed handguns in Portland International Airport and in or near any school district building. There is no justification presented for such prohibitions. It serves to marginalize the rights of honest citizens. I oppose this section.

I would support the original SB 978, which was designed to provide useful information to the legislature so it could make wise choices. However, I oppose the entire contents of the amendment which has been added to the bill.

Cordially,

Robert Rubenstein

Portland, Oregon resident