

SB 978

## Opposition Testimony of Tony Gomes

My name is Tony Gomes, For the past 7 years I have been working as a licensed private investigator specializing in criminal defense investigations, surveillance and workplace violence prevention.

Based on my experience, I can confidently say that expanding gun free zones will only succeed in informing criminals that their victims have no legal right to defend themselves. Section 26 of this amendment disproportionately punishes CHL holders.

Oregon law states that when a person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes physical injury to another it is classified as Assault in the fourth degree, a class A misdemeanor,

With section 26 of this law, a Concealed Handgun License holder who walks on the wrong sidewalk, or drives in the wrong parking lot would be potentially charged with a Class C Felony.

How is it, that a CHL holder walking quietly through a public place, is subject to a life changing criminal charge, than a person committing physical assault to another?

When I worked as an armed security guard at a grade school, I was thanked on a daily basis by parents of the children. According to the NY Times, the U.S. Military has a combined force of nearly 2.1 Million Soldiers.

In Oregon we have approximately 1,250 K-12 schools. How are we unable to have one trained, armed security guard at a school? To protect what matters most, our community and our children?

I would like to see positive incentives such as House Bill 2950, a tax credit for obtaining a gun safe, instead of punishing gun owners for being victims of theft or burglary.

Senator Gelser, As a constituent in your district I would like to invite you as my personal guest to our community firearms range where you can familiarize yourself with safe firearm handling. The laws you are voting on are so very important that I strongly believe you should have first hand knowledge and experience with firearms.