

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Garrett Freshour and I'm a native Oregonian, tax payer and 2nd amendment supporter. I'm writing to you in regards to SB978 and I'm in opposition of this bill for the following reasons.

First off , raising the age to 21 to purchase firearms and accessories is not going to prevent any violence or make people safer. You only have to be 18 to join the military and possibly 16 to vote(if that bill comes to pass), but 21 to purchase a gun. Is the purpose of this portion of the bill to disenfranchise anybody that's under 21?

Next, your bill requires gun owners to lock up their guns except when under their direct control and put a cable lock on all guns. If it gets stolen, despite all attempts to secure the gun with trigger locks and/or gun safe, the owner is held responsible if the gun kills or hurts anybody even if the gun is reported stolen immediately. By this same rationalization, If someone steals a car and causes an accident while under the influence, the owner should be held liable and receive the manslaughter and DUII charges.

Requiring a background check on "80% lowers" is unnecessary and just creates more paperwork and red tape. And 80% lower requires additional machining and tooling with expensive equipment and extensive gunsmithing experience. The average criminal is not going to take the time, energy, or expense to not only finish the lower itself, but then complete the build for a full gun. A crime has never been committed by one incomplete piece of a weapon. It never will be. This bill only puts law abiding citizens under more scrutiny for the sake of creating a law to make us supposedly safer.

Possibly the most concerning aspect of this bill is it will allow any jurisdiction to ban concealed carry anywhere they see fit. The wording is too open-ended and could potentially create a situation where, if they should choose to do so, the city of Portland could ban concealed carry on all schools, parking lots and adjacent land to schools in Creswell a town that is 120 miles away. I live between two school and could never carry concealed with a license anywhere without going to jail and that's just after leaving my driveway. Oregon all ready has a patchwork of laws banning concealed carry in various jurisdictions. It causes confusion when going from county to county or even city to city, knowing where, when and how a person is allowed to carry my firearm..

Personal protection is a very real concern in this day and age. Police are under no obligation to protect me (see Supreme court case Warren vs District of Columbia or the shooting at Douglas High school in Parkland Florida, where police were told to stand down and a lot of people died needlessly). According to the department of homeland security typical police response time is 18 minutes and school shootings last an average of 12.5 minutes. Home invasions can be even shorter. And living in a rural community, where we have no local law enforcement agency, we depend on the county deputies for protection. Our wait time for services is even longer than those that live within larger cities that have dedicated police forces.

I strongly urge you not to support this bill. The laws we have now are sufficient and just need to be enforced.

Garrett Freshour