

Hello,

I was alerted to the existence of this hearing for SB 978 by a gun ownership activist- but I'm on the exact opposite side of the table when it comes to gun "rights" and want to share my thoughts with you to counterbalance the influence of the "gun lobby". It's my opinion that our "right" to own guns is not unfettered.

The increase in recent years of wanton killings and gun deaths due to poor judgement, along with civil and domestic conflicts warrants taking a more careful approach to gun ownership. Without additional controls on the types of weapons available and controls on who may possess them, the danger to our society is greater than the benefits of protection and survival obtained through legal firearm access.

Here are some of the issues and my thoughts on them:

- *Assault rifles- ban entirely except for military and (limited) law enforcement use. Certainly no one needs an assault rifle to hunt deer or other wild game!
- *Magazine Capacity- no privately owned weapons to have greater than a 3 shot capacity. Replacing expended magazines with full ones creates a much needed delay to facilitate escape- more sportsmanlike for animals, and more fair for individuals.
- *Age restrictions- applicable for under 18 perhaps, requiring parent or guardian present.
- *Tax increases on guns and ammunition- to finance more safety and legal education for firearm owners as well as administering and enforcing more restrictive firearms laws.
- *Monthly purchase limits- on ammunition (depending on type), and on firearm purchases by individuals.
- *Waiting periods- one week minimum, and subject to more stringent background checks on mental health as well as criminal records.
- *Gun Registration- every firearm accounted for and traceable.
- *Storage laws- lock and key, but also reining in "open carry".
- *Expand "gun-free zones"- but in doing so enhance citizen protections by establishing detection devices and procedures (that will also detect non-metal weapons).
- *Impose additional controls on obtaining a Concealed Handgun License.

Attending school or any public places or businesses must be safe and free of intimidation for all of us. In the last 3 years, I've personally experienced others (not in law enforcement or the military) practicing open carry in a

supermarket in Bandon, on a nearly deserted Oregon beach near my home in Florence, and in a national park in Montana. In all instances I felt unsafe, because I could not be sure that the person carrying a weapon openly was not someone with a chip on the shoulder, a volatile personality, or just a "nut case". It is an intimidating behavior and I feel the carrying person is more likely than the average person to be unstable or hotheaded. I have also felt heightened unease at any public gathering and also at retail locations in which open carry is permitted. Living in fear is not what life is meant to be like.

I urge significant but carefully crafted measures that will make possible the confidence that I and others around me can go about our daily business without fear, and firearm access restrictions are a major component of achieving it.

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