

Greetings Committee Members,

Thank you very much for accepting and reading this testimony on SB 978. My name is Michael Bay, I am a husband, a father, and a veteran. I've had the misfortune of losing an uncle who was also a veteran to suicide. He took his life with a firearm. I only share this to set the context for this testimony.

A firearm is tool, albeit a deadly one. So is a knife, a power tool and a car. Each has the ability to maim or kill. If someone breaks into your house and steals a valuable knife in your collection and then robs a store with it, stabbing and killing an innocent person with it. You're not liable for what that thief did with your property. *Why does it make sense to treat firearms differently?* This bill would do that to a gun owner, make them liable for the separate evil act of a criminal.

If a person sells a car to third party and that third party hits and kills someone either intentionally or by accident. The person who sold them the car is not liable for what the third party did with it and it would be ludicrous to put that forward. Yet that is what this bill would do to a gun owner for selling and or transferring a firearm to a third party.

I used that example because in 1979 at the age of 9 I was hit and almost killed by a brand new Chevy Nova. It's not a convenient example. I spent 3 months in the hospital and year and half in various kinds of physical therapy. I had to learn to walk again and repeat the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Obviously, the new Nova wasn't responsible.

My uncle didn't die because of a gun, he died because he couldn't live with what happened to him and what he witnessed in the Vietnam war. The gun was just the tool he used.

Other parts of this bill would make it so various state entities could make any public building a gun free zone. Over 90% of all mass shooting occur in gun free zones, because evil cowards want an easy target and they never care about your laws.

Gun free zones disarm good people and make easy victims out of our loved ones for evil people. Evil doesn't care about or obey laws, gun free zones don't protect anyone they just create a target rich environment for evil people.

This bill goes on to make law abiding gun owners lock up and render inert their self-defense firearms in their own homes. This infringes upon their 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment and article 27 rights by making more difficult to defend themselves in their own homes.

There are many cases documented where people were killed or wounded in their own homes and were unable to defend themselves because their firearms were rendered inert or locked up in such a manner that they couldn't be quickly accessed.

In other cases we hear about children taking up self-defense firearms to defend their homes and parents, as young as 11 years old. Boys and girls because their law abiding responsible gun owning parents taught them how to use a firearm. My father started my firearms training when I was 10 years old. I am alive today because my father and the government taught me how to responsibly use firearms.

Virtually all the issues these new regulations would touch on are already subject to existing laws.

ORS 166.220 covers the unlawful use of a firearm in the entirety of the state. In addition to that according to Oregon existing law child endangerment, child abuse, child neglect, trespass, theft, burglary, rape, murder and most evil that can be committed against persons or property is illegal already.

You can't legislate out evil or stupidity; neither recognizes nor respects the law. Gun control doesn't work because evil doesn't obey the law all it does is make victims out of law abiding citizens.

This bill is full of regulation that is both derogatory and discriminating towards law abiding gun owners and would in my opinion violate the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment of the US Constitution and article 27 of the Oregon State Constitution. What this bill puts forward is tyranny and if it passes that's what Oregon will have.

Thank you for giving me your time today.

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