

Dear Representative,

I am writing in Opposition to SB978 and any other Gun Control bills that are being proposed in the State of Oregon this session.

Key Points of SB978:

1. Implements rules regarding Firearm Storage and Trigger locks.

By implementing mandatory laws for Firearm Storage and Trigger locks the state will turn law abiding citizens into criminals in the State of Oregon and will do nothing to reduce the amount of violent crime in our state. Rules like these may seem to have good intentions, but they only punish the victims of theft further instead of getting to the heart of the crime problem in our state.

This law is written that even if a person has locked up their firearms with good intentions, if a criminal is able to get the trigger lock or cable lock off and use the gun in a crime that the owner of the firearm can still be prosecuted. Who is the state trying to punish here, the criminal or the victim?

Citizens don't have time to remove trigger locks when life threatening events are happening. I have lived in Rural Polk County most of my life. Most of the time that I lived in Polk County there were only 2 county deputies on duty on weekends. Typically at least one of these two deputies were stationed near the Spirit Mountain Casino. This leaves one deputy to cover a County that is 25 miles long and 33 miles wide. Even if the second deputy wasn't preoccupied with Spirit Mountain Casino, the county is too large to expect that a deputy is going to be able to respond to any area within the county in a reasonable amount of time when a 911 call comes in. Just driving to cover the distance within the county takes a significant amount of time if the deputy was free to respond. It is likely that these deputies are already responding to a call that they need to finish before they can even respond to a new call.

I have been the one on the phone calling 911 needing help to arrive, then waiting for more than an hour for police to respond. My family is fortunate that our 911 call wasn't life threatening because if it was there is no way for the police to arrive in time to stop a break in or violent crime. Our police forces are spread way too thin to have any reasonable expectation that they will be able to arrive in time to stop violent crimes.

This leaves it in the hands of citizens to be able to protect themselves, quickly and efficiently. Trigger Lock and Firearm Storage laws will only make it more difficult for citizens to protect themselves against the increasing amount of violent crime that we are facing these days.

2. Gun Free Zones

SB978 allows Governments to create "Gun Free Zones" banning cancelled carry holders from carrying firearms in any public buildings, including schools, universities, airports, etc...

Please tell us what data exists that shows that Cancelled carry license holders are more apt to create crimes than average citizens and the justification for restricting where CHL holders can carry?

Has it been shown that CHL holders are likely to commit crimes with the weapons that they are licensed to carry?

Secondly, where is the data that shows that gun free zones are safer than other zones?

Is it logical to believe that a person that has intent to inflict violence or murder with a weapon, which is a crime already punishable by life in prison or the death sentence, will be detoured from committing this crime by creating a gun free zone with a smaller punishment?

If someone is intent on doing harm to people no sign stating "Gun Free Zone" is going to detour them from committing the crime they are determined to commit.

All the Gun Free Zone ensures is that there will be no law abiding citizens in the Gun Free Zone and that the Assailant will have the opportunity to shoot unarmed "Fish in a Barrel" until law enforcement arrives.

I travel internationally for my Job. I have friends that are in countries that have the most strict gun control laws in the world.

Look at London, it's been against the law for years to possess most firearms. Now they have a murder rate as high as New York City. Criminals just use knives in London instead of firearms. If you don't give the criminal what they want the criminal just stabs you and you have no way to defend yourself.

Look at other parts of the UK, Germany and France where there strict gun control laws. Shootings are still happening as criminals get the firearms from the black market.

And if firearms are not available they just steal Semi Trucks, Vans or cars and start running people down in the street.

What are you going to do after you essentially ban firearms here in Oregon, are you going to ban Knives, Semi Trucks, Vans, Cars, gasoline and any other item that can be used to kill people? Sick people who are intent on killing another person, or dozens of people will find a way to do it. Gun free zones are not a solution to the problem.

3. Magazine Capacity Restrictions.

There is no data that shows crime increases where there are no restrictions on magazine capacity.

Sick people are going to inflict huge amounts of harm on crowds, even if they only have access to 5 round magazines compared to 25 round magazines.

The truth is that if the Assailant thinks they can't do as much damage with smaller magazines, that they will just find an alternative way to inflict mass casualties.

4. Restricting Minors from Access to guns.

This is a rule that is just trying to restrict access to the next generation of law abiding firearm owners.

This does nothing to address the core problems that are leading to violent crime in Oregon.

If you really care about the citizens you represent, please do not support any anti gun legislation such as this measure that does nothing to improve public safety.

Why don't our Representatives actually do something that gets to the root cause of violent crime in our society?

Do something that will actually help protect your constituents such as:

1. Reform our mental health programs to lock up people that society knows are highly likely to commit violent crimes.

Time and time again there is a murder or mass shooting where information comes out later that many people, including law enforcement, knew the person was crazy and was likely to commit violent crimes.

Even with all these warning signs, time and time again nothing is done to take care of these sick individuals until after they have inflicted great harm.

2. Enforce maximum sentences for people who commit violent crimes
3. Curtail the out of control drug problem in our society that leads to mental illness and crime
4. Enforce maximum sentences for drug and violent crimes.
5. Actually enforce our existing gun laws and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.

How many times do felons try to buy a gun from a retail store and fail the Background check? It is documented that it happens a fair amount, yet nothing is done to track these people down and enforce our current laws

that already exist for a felon to try to buy a firearm.

We know time and time again that Meth heads are robbing house after house and when they get caught they get a slap on the wrist and are out on the streets the next day robbing again.

Last time I checked it is a serious crime to steal a firearm, but even when they are caught little to nothing is done to these people.

Now the people who are writing SB978 and similar laws want to make the victims of these crimes the criminals instead of dealing with the Meth Heads that are causing the crimes.

6. Actually link mental health records to background check data to have a fully useful database to head people off from purchasing firearms that shouldn't have access.

Why don't our Politicians actually try to use and enforce the tools they already have rather than introducing legislation that makes law abiding citizens criminals and does nothing to improve public safety?

People are sick of politicians ignoring the actual cause of violent crime in our communities which is mental illness and an out of control drug problem in our society.

Maybe Politicians need to educate themselves as to what is the **root of these problems**, then they might be better equipped to formulate solutions.

If you can't even attempt to address the root cause of these issues for yourself or the people who cast the votes to put you in office, at least attempt to get to the root of the problems for our kids who depend on us adults to have enough common sense to curtail these problems.

Don't pass more worthless laws that do nothing to curtail our crime problem, make criminals out of ordinary citizens and continue to drive a deeper wedge between the people of our state.

Sincerely

Brett Freeborn
Salem Oregon