

To the Oregon State Senate Judiciary Committee,

I strongly OPPOSE SB978.

I am a widow living alone on a small farm. Three years ago my neighbor's goats were killed by a cougar. I choose to keep a loaded pistol where I can get it quickly. And yes, I am an experienced shooter/hunter. My father was, and my brother is, a hunters safety instructor. We grew up being taught to respect firearms and how to use them safely. When my husband and I got custody of his son Cody, Cody took hunters safety and we bought a gun safe. There are many responsible gun owners in the state who wish to teach their children about gun safety while parents are still able to supervise. Waiting until the child is no longer living in the home means that close one on one training won't happen.

Please also consider that a large part of our state is rural. Families keep guns to protect their livestock from wild animals. That means being able to get a gun quickly. And, for many rural families, wild game is a big part of what their families eat. Please bare in mind that this law is being proposed for the entire state. Perhaps parents who wish to have guns in their homes should be required to take safety classes along with their children. My dad always wanted parents to attend classes with their kids. All gun owners should have proper training. Several states require all hunters, adults and children, to complete hunter safety classes.

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