

My name is Matt Hamilton. I beg you to stop Senate Bill 978 from moving past this hearing. My firearms and I are not the problem. I have carried a concealed in Oregon every day since turning 21. I have safely and responsibly used firearms since I was given my first rifle on Christmas morning when I was 10 years old.

As a United States Marine and an Oregon Hunter Safety Instructor I truly wonder why there isn't more discussion about firearm safety and instruction. Hunter Safety Courses or classroom instruction teaching kids what to do if they find an unsecured firearm will bring positive change. Children's minds are like a sponge. We need to legislate for incentive programs to promote firearm safety and responsible storage. A couple of current bills that do this and I urge you to support are HB2287, HB2291, HB2546, HB2950 and SB801. If you truly wish to promote positive change then please support common sense legislation that incentivizes responsible storage of firearms and firearm safety training.

Criminalizing good people and invalidating the 2nd Amendment will not stop or prevent the horrors of the next violent massacre. We need to remember that for many years' rifles and shotguns were common items in window of pickups in high school parking lots. So what has changed? I have been to war, I have been shot at and I have been blown up by an IED. Why then, is it normal for kids or anyone for that matter to own and play video games that are simulation's more horrific than war. Players in these video games are actively riddling each other with bullets with blood splattering everywhere, stabbing their friends to death, blowing each other up, running each other over with vehicles and violently mutilating each other in numerous other ways in the name of fun and entertainment. These are kids playing these games. We have thousands of veterans dealing with P.T.S.D. from war, how are our children's minds being shaped by this violence. The same is obvious with violence in movies, television and other forms of media but with video games you are not just a bystander but a participant. The elephant in the room is so obvious yet nobody identifies it because we are habituated to seeing these things and accept them as a part of our daily lives. This is the problem.

Senate Bill 978 would make me a criminal by just parking in the airport parking lot or driving through the designated drop off and pick up lanes with my concealed carry if this is made into law. Please do not make my family and I criminals. My wife and I both use firearms for target practice, hunting and self-defense. We realize our most important security tool for ourselves and our 2 little girls is our firearms. Our firearms that we responsibly store so our children cannot access them but at the same time be accessible to us within seconds if needed. This ludicrous bill if signed into law would render our firearms useless and jeopardize our safety. It is not that we won't comply with laws like this, it is the fact that we can't comply.

Thank You

Matt Hamilton

Monmouth, OR