

Senators:

All people, everywhere, have a right to live -- even where it is not acknowledged by their government. Implicit in that right to live is the right to defend one's own life, and the lives of others: if you have a right to live, but are denied the right to defend your life, then effectively that nullifies your right to live by being defenseless against attack. These are fundamental, inherent human rights, seldom acknowledged, but universal.

The 2nd amendment acknowledges the right to defend life in the U.S. Constitution, and Article 1, section 27, repeats this acknowledgment in the Oregon Constitution. Impediments to that right, for any reason, are attacks against the lives of the law abiding citizen, but do nothing to restrain the lawless person. Why would government seek to tilt the balance of power toward the lawless, when most of the time lawless acts are done with no one to defend life except the victim?

Forbidding home gun-smithing, requiring firearms to be stored so that it takes precious time to retrieve and ready them, punishing the law-abiding for a lawless act of theft by another, increasing the cost of exercising the human right of self-defense, forbidding possession by those old enough to be soldiers (able to defend the country but not self or family?), hampering the training of youth, and hampering the law-abiding possession of a firearm everywhere in public by allowing public entities to create a patchwork of so-called "gun-free" -- really, just "lawful gun free" -- zones... are nothing more than the practice of death of that fundamental human right by a thousand cuts.

There is no excuse for forbidding, hampering, or even making less convenient and more expensive, the fundamental right to defend one's own life and the lives of others. It is unconstitutional, horrifyingly belligerent toward those who know that if they cannot defend themselves on a moment's notice, no one else will be around to defend them, and finally shockingly supportive of the lawless among us, who will not obey any such law, and who will happily depend on the unarmed state of their victims.

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