

I am writing to express my unwavering support for our firearm freedoms granted by the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution.

I am outraged by the ongoing and continuous attacks by political leaders on our firearm freedoms. I am disgusted and angry by the sneaky and deceptive methods used by members of the legislature to restrict and eliminate firearm use and ownership. If the general population understood the real goal of many of our government leaders was to disarm them, these continuous attacks on our firearm freedoms would stop.

Senate Bill 978 is not going to make anyone safer. On the contrary, it will make people more vulnerable and at risk to violence. Limiting where Concealed Handgun License holders may carry is more dangerous not less. The criminals and those who would do harm don't care about laws restricting where firearms may be carried. They will just disregard this new law and take a gun (which they obtained illegally) into whatever area they wish and use it if that is their intent. The law won't stop them, they are already law breakers. SB978 will create gun free areas where criminals feel free to prey on those who they know will be unarmed. Are CHL holders the problem? How many times have a law abiding CHL holder used his or her weapon in an illegal manner or caused harm to an innocent? Concealed Handgun License holders are not even a remote problem. It is unfair to say limiting where they may lawfully carry their defensive weapon makes others unsafe.

Senate Bill 978 is unfair to all the young adults wishing to own a firearm or buy ammunition. We trust them enough with a firearm at the age of 18 to draft them into the military and defend our country. It is an insult to them to say they are too immature and can't purchase or possess a firearm. If they aren't mature enough to own a firearm, then they aren't mature enough to serve in the military or vote.

Senate Bill 978 is unfair to gun owners who have had a gun stolen from them and used in a crime. It was stolen. Where is the punishment for the criminal who stole the weapon? This is ridiculous. The gun owner who the gun was stolen from is a victim also. A self defense weapon is no good to a potential victim of violence if it is locked up and inaccessible. Why don't we hold a screwdriver or kitchen knife owner responsible if their tool is stolen and used to hurt someone? It is the exact same thing.

I am also steadfastly opposed to requiring "unfinished frames or receivers" otherwise known as 80% frames, be registered or banned. The only reason for registration of firearms is compiling a record of ownership for confiscation such as what is happening in New Zealand right now. I would not be opposed to background checks if they were truly just a background check to determine if a person is legal to own a firearm, but the background check also includes registration of the weapon by the State Police. Why

does the government need to know what weapons a person has unless it is so they can be confiscated when the government decides to?

Lawful firearm owners are not the problem. In fact, if more responsible people owned and freely carried firearms on a daily basis, there would be less gun violence. Those people wishing to harm others would not feel so emboldened to carry out their evil acts if they thought a good person with a gun may stand in their way and stop them.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider my words and concerns and not support Senate Bill 978 and the rest of the restrictive firearm legislation being considered in Oregon. I urge you to instead spend your effort, resources, and influence addressing the real and pressing problems facing our State. Firearm ownership and use are not a problem or safety issue in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Russell Webb