

I write in opposition to SB 978-1, and respectfully request that you not allow this bill/amendment to proceed any further. Please consider the fact that:

1. Evil-minded people intent on malicious or hurtful conduct will not comply with any new law creating an additional "gun free zone." For example, can you cite a single instance of a mass murderer who changed his or her murderous plans merely because of the existence of such a zone? I handle criminal cases for a living, and can confirm that sex offenders, murderers, etc. are not obeying the laws currently in effect that outlaw person crimes. Why would a so-called "gun free zone" convince a murderer to not act out violently while knowing that law-abiding Oregonians will not be carrying a firearm in self-defense in such a zone?

2. Allowing the creation of additional areas where Oregonians with concealed carry permits cannot legally carry their weapon makes everyone LESS safe. See Article 1, Section 27, of the Oregon Constitution, granting Oregonians the right to carry firearms for both protection of themselves and this State (i.e. other residents).

3. Official, State-sanctioned age discrimination has no place in Oregon. Our fellow Oregonians can fight and die in wars at age eighteen. They should be allowed to own firearms at that age while at home as well.

4. This bill represents yet another attempt this year to vilify and discriminate against law-abiding Oregonians merely because they have interests you may not share, including a keener sense of self-responsibility in the area of self-defense and the defense of others. Such a targeted attack against our residents does not represent the values of diversity and tolerance that Oregon should represent.

5. Creating an additional class of criminals by passing new laws that restrict otherwise law-abiding Oregonians does not serve a legitimate public purpose. It is also not effective. Instead, it merely creates a false sense of security.

6. Creating a complicated set of new laws about storage (including in the sanctity of our own homes) does not serve a legitimate public interest, especially when it interferes with the ability of Oregonians to defend themselves at a practical level. The proposed laws on storage are draconian, and appear to be a back-door effort to restrict the legitimate availability and use of firearms in self-defense situations.

7. Increasing the fees associated with a concealed carry license only harms the poorest of our residents, and does not serve a legitimate public function. Read fairly and in its proper context, it is merely an attempt to penalize and discriminate against fellow Oregonians who can least afford it.

8. Although you may consider the way in which this -1 amendment was created to be part of the normal legislative process, please be aware that it instead appears (from the perspective of an outside observer) to be a calculated effort to hide the damaging effects of these various measures, and to discourage vigorous debate.

Please do not allow this bill to proceed forward.

Respectfully and sincerely,

Byron Hadley