

SB 978 has recently come to my attention, and as a native Oregonian I would like to voice my concerns.

The content of this bill is both an overreach of government, and an absurd burden upon Oregon residents who own firearms, a burden that would never be placed upon any other community of people.

This bill would hold a gun owner responsible for the actions of a criminal who stole a gun from said gun owner. This is a preposterous notion, akin to charging you if a car thief ran over someone with your car.

There are many other parts of this bill which would do nothing to make our great state any safer, while creating an undue burden on gun owners, who are generally among the most law-abiding members of society. Those with concealed handgun licenses are more than 9 times less likely to commit murder than the population at large, and yet this bill would restrict and criminalize those very people. (That statistic comes from the Violence Policy Center, a noted anti-gun organization)

We can learn a lot from our past mistakes, so I pose this question: How successful were prohibition and the war on drugs? Did they make us safer? Or did they create a new class of criminals out of American citizens, while fueling the rise of the mafia and drug cartels, respectively?

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