

Senate Bill 978

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Room 50

It is impossible in two minutes to address the multitude of problems with this bill. So, here is my perspective based on my training and experience:

As a practicing Oregon lawyer for over 40 years, I find many parts of the bill to be incomprehensible. This bill invites millions of dollars in litigation costs for the state of Oregon and undoubtedly a trip to the Supreme Court. It will be impossible for ordinary citizens, or lawyers, to clearly know when their actions are illegal. It will lead to selective, discriminatory enforcement.

I spent over 20 years as an Oregon State Trooper. Reducing crime and in particular, violent crime, is what I am all about. This bill will not do that. The violent offenders in our society do not care one whit about gun control. They will not obey it. A person willing to murder someone with a gun does not care if possessing the gun is a crime. Gun control has not led to less gun violence anywhere in the United States. In fact, just the opposite.

As a trooper, one of my assignments was as a firearms investigator. When a purchase was denied, or there was a question about a firearm, I was called in. I can tell you that there are hundreds of thousands of legally manufactured firearms in Oregon that have no serial number. They were not required until more recently. This bill will make instant criminals out of people who own a Colt Woodsman .22 pistol, or a Marlin .22 single shot rifle.

There has been no gun violence escalation in Oregon. States that have reduced laws banning carrying of guns have seen reduction in crime, not increases. The United States is a safe country. Oregon is a very safe state. Gun violence is heavily concentrated in the core of a few cities, and these laws will have no positive effect.

I strongly urge that this bill not be passed into law.