

Good Morning Senators

Thank you for allowing me to offer my thoughts regarding SB 978.

Guns have been an important and long-standing part Oregon well before, John Jacob Astor established his settlement here over 200 years ago. So crucial were guns to America and to Oregon that the founders, in their great wisdom, guaranteed the unencumbered right to bear arms by every citizen.

Today, we find ourselves at a time when wisdom and fidelity to our Constitution is no longer held sacred. The very people to whom we have delegated the protection of our Constitution seem unwilling to do so. Worse, the oath, on one's honor, to protect and uphold our Constitution is often violated with a determined and joyful spirit.

Oregon, a State with a proud history; a State founded and populated, early in its history, by independently minded citizens; a State where one lived by his or her word and oaths were always honored; a State in which the citizenry prided themselves on living alongside minimal government interference .

And now you are unwisely considering a bill and amendments to skirt the fundamental tenets of our Constitution. You simply cannot honor your oath to uphold our Constitution while attempting to circumvent it.

You insist upon considering the infringement of the citizenry with poorly thought out schemes that would:

- Legalize age discrimination for firearm dealers to deprive young adults of their Second Amendment rights. Please explain why those who are said by a few to be mature enough to vote on deeply important issues and the election of wise and honorable leaders, but are too unwise to buy a gun.
- Impose a one-size-fits-all government solution for firearm storage and require them to be made unavailable for self-defense.
- Further victimize gun owners who have suffered a loss or theft of their property with criminal penalties if they fail to follow certain requirements when reporting them.
- Severely restrict minors from using firearms for lawful purposes such as hunting.
- End the centuries old practice of home manufacturing firearms for lawful, personal use.
- Allow local governments to create "gun-free zones" where law-abiding citizens are disarmed and left defenseless against criminals who ignore such arbitrary boundaries.

This invites a patchwork of laws and resulting anarchy; This would place law abiding citizens in a position of becoming unknowingly and unintentionally criminal. Shame on you.

- Increase the fee for citizens to apply for a Concealed Handgun License in order to exercise a fundamental right. Obviously this is meant to discourage lawful means of defending ones self.

Will Rogers once said: "Things are terribly dull now. We won't have any more serious comedy until Congress meets." Don't prove him right, please oppose Senate Bill 978.

Thank you.

Daryl McClimans
Lebanon, Oregon