

Hello. I am unable to drive from Bend, Oregon to Salem tomorrow in order to appear personally regarding this bill, so I am forwarding my comments electronically.

I am a Father of two teenage sons, who both shoot competitively and participate in ODFW sanctioned hunting. The multi-gun competitions they compete in require the use of standard capacity pistols (20 round magazines), standard capacity AR-15 platform rifles (30 round magazines) and standard capacity semi-auto shotguns (8 round magazines). Together, we use 300-500 rounds of ammunition per month in training and competition.

I am a veteran and a retired law enforcement officer with 34 years of active service behind me. I am also a registered voter who has voted in every election since I turned 18. I own many firearms, which I use for both personal defense, home defense, marksmanship training and competition.

I am a very strong supporter of our Constitutional rights under the Second Amendment. As a result of both my military and law enforcement service I have witnessed firsthand the abuses which occur to unarmed citizens and/or citizens in an unarmed society. I absolutely will not allow my family to be at the mercy of criminals or those who will do them harm.

I understand the pain and suffering of those whose loved ones have been harmed by criminals, either with firearms, or by other means. I understand the desire to protect our fellow citizens from future harm. Where I disagree is the mindset and methods which are being considered as viable options.

By placing broad restrictions on the firearms rights of law abiding citizens you will be needlessly harming their ability to protect themselves and exercise their rights in other areas of the shooting sports- hunting, competition, etc. These restrictions WILL NOT affect the criminals who commit those crimes- by definition they do not adhere to the laws already on the books- why would we think they will follow additional laws? Do you really want to be the group who trades away our freedoms for the illusion of safety? What about our other rights- are they also subject to dismissal by legislation?

Please let common sense and rational thought control your decisions, not 'feel good' legislation that in the end will DO NOTHING to protect us from the criminals who would do us harm.

Yes, many criminals bent on doing harm have used firearms to do so. However, they have used every other conceivable instrument, and in fact there are many more effective ways to rack up a large body count than firearms. Think explosives (Timothy McVeigh and the Murrah Federal Building) large vehicles (trucks, buses, Sprinter vans, etc.) airplanes (the Twin Towers in New York), poisons, fire, etc. The list can go on and on, and sadly in the end there is no way to guarantee our collective safety, human nature being what it is.

In summation-please do not sell out our rights in a misguided effort to keep us safe- in the end you will make many law abiding fathers, sons, husbands, brothers, friends, etc. criminals by legislative fiat.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Olander  
Bend, Oregon