

From: [Brian & Linda Sheets](#)
To: [SJUD Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony regarding SB 978
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To Whom It may Concern:

One of the founding principles of this country is the right to bear arms.

- Without such a right, colonial America would have never been able to fight for independence from the British in the 18th century.
- Without such a right, we would have had great difficult in the War of 1812.
- Without such a right, we would not have been able to pioneer and homestead the western U.S. , including the adventures of Lewis & Clark.
- Without such a right, people would not be able to protect themselves from home invasion and violent criminals.
- Without such a right, law abiding gun owners would not be able to come to the defense of those unable to protect themselves.
- Without such a right, some people would not be able to provide for their families through participation in legal hunting endeavors.
- Without such a right, we would not be able to compete in sporting events like the Olympics.
- Without such a right, store owners will no longer able to protect their store, their employees, or their customers.

Guns are not the problem. People are the problem. When people use baseball bats, knives, tire irons, and other weapons to commit injury, we do not outlaw baseball bats, knives, and tire irons. Rather, we go after the criminal so as to prevent another incident of violence.

If you take the guns away from law abiding citizens, criminals will not be deterred – they will continue to procure all the guns they want on the black market. Just like the criminal who killed a police officer in Illinois earlier this year. Police knew he had an illegal weapon but did not arrest him or take action to remove the firearm from his possession. As a result, a police officer lost his life.

It's criminals who shoot our police. It is criminals who rob stores and break into homes. It is criminals that shoot at our schools. Law abiding citizens do not participate in such activities.

Therefore, SB 978, which will negatively impact law abiding citizens, will have no impact on criminals nor will it have any impact on gun violence. Rather, it will empower criminals to become more bold because they will know that there are no longer any law abiding citizens that will be able to threaten them when they commit crime.

SB 978 will effectively turn Oregon into a gun free zone and the state will become ripe pickings for criminals.

Regards.

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