

I oppose this bill for a number of reasons:

1) If a hammer is stolen from my garage and used to kill someone, I'm not responsible. If my car is stolen by a drunk and results in a death, I'm not responsible. But if my gun is stolen and used in a crime, under 978 I'm responsible. Far more people are killed by hammers and cars than by guns. This makes absolutely no sense!

2) As a former college instructor, I believe it is dangerously irresponsible to prohibit concealed carry on public campuses. This says just one thing to potential killers -- "Open season!!" Mass shooters consistently choose sites that are advertised as gun-free zones. I believe campus police should be armed and trained and school personnel who are willing should be rigorously trained and licensed to carry on campus. THAT is the way to reduce school shootings and help students to feel more safe. School districts should also be allowed to hire off-duty or retired law enforcement personnel to patrol schools. Some would probably be willing to volunteer for such assignments. The cost of such measures would be more than compensated for by the increased security.

3) If I have to run to my safe in the middle of the night, get my gun and then load it with ammo from another safe location, the criminal has just won that battle. It's too late and you know this! Is your intent to take away our rights to protect ourselves from home invaders?

4) If I understand correctly, counties and municipalities would be able to pass their own restrictions on gun use and concealed carry. This would make concealed carry in Oregon nearly impossible. Is this your intent?

5) The Clackamas example used by the well-coached teens during the hearing paradoxically supports gun-rights. The shooter may have been deterred by a concealed carry licensee. Please don't be swayed by the emotional arguments of teens who are supported by the anti-gun lobby. The real way to protect school children I've already outlined. This bill would do little to nothing to really protect them. A deranged and determined killer will acquire weapons -- legally or illegally.

Please reject this proposal. And if you want to change gun laws, please: no more sweeping bills like this one! One issue at a time.

Finally, please remember that you're dealing with an issue that plays upon the basic drives of self-preservation and the desire to protect one's friends and family. Push too hard against the right to self-defense and the situation could tragically get very ugly. Let's all try to avoid that!!