

Dear Members of the committee,

Thank you for your time in reading my comments. I am strongly opposed to this bill and its amendments. I live in a rural area and farm for a living. The restrictions in this bill and amendments inhibit my ability to defend myself and my livestock. At best, the response time for a Clackamas County Sheriff to arrive to my home is an hour to an hour and a half. In the middle of the night if someone was to break into my home there is not time to unlock a weapon, retrieve ammo and defend my home and my family. By that time whomever is breaking into my home will have had ample time to harm myself or my family. Likewise, if my livestock is being attacked by the time I could retrieve the components, unlock my gun it will be too late for the animal that I am trying to protect. This is not a hobby, this is my livelihood. In addition, as I work in the woods around my property there is always a loaded gun on my quad or tractor one that is usually within quick retrieval, but not on my person. This is for my protection. I live in an area that has many bears and cougars, and more recently wolves have been spotted. As I understand the bill I will be breaking the law by leaving my loaded gun on my tractor or quad. It is not always safe however, for me to carry it on my person as I am usually working when I am in the woods and packing a rifle and chainsaw at the same time would be cumbersome. But I want it close to me.

Not all my guns are unlocked. Most are locked up in a safe where they belong. But the couple that I do leave unlocked are very important in the defense of myself and my property.

In addition to this, there are several other parts of this bill that are wrong,

The minimum age – My son was able to go to war and defend our country when he was 18, he is in the army, but when he came home he would be unable to own or have possession of a firearm? He is now over 21 so it does not apply to him, but there are many others who this would apply to.

The 2 year period – If someone steals my gun whether or not it has a lock on it I would be responsible for any actions that were taken using my gun? I have no control over that. And a gun lock would have no use in securing a firearm as a criminal would have ample time to defeat any lock that was on the gun.

The right to have a gun in my vehicle when driving to places such as airports – All this does would be to make me a criminal for the 15 minutes that I am dropping my friends/son who would be home on leave off at the airport.

What it all comes down to is that this bill does not address the true issue in our state with guns. That is drugs and mental illness. If these issues are addressed it would go much further to help the gun issue than infringing upon the rights of law-abiding citizens. It is not the law-abiding citizens who are committing the crimes, it is criminals, people with mental issues and drug issues. Laws have no impact on them. I can guarantee that the tweaker trailer that is about a mile down the road from my house has many guns in it and none of the people who frequent that trailer are legally able to own a gun, nor are the guns legally obtained. They do not care, but when they decide to come up the road I want the ability to be able to defend myself and my family. It is my earnest prayer that I never have to use my weapon in self-defense. But if that need arises, I want the ability to be able to do so.

As I watched testimony this morning, I was struck by one common factor for all the people who are for this bill. They live in a city. They live lives that do not rely on guns, either for their protection or for the protection of their livelihood. People who have lives so different from my own should not be able to dictate to me how to best defend myself or my property. The thought of having police protection hours away is as foreign to them as the thought of being able to call and someone at my door within minutes is to myself. We joke, if something happens to us or our house burns we will be dead or it will be burnt by the time anyone can get here. It is very

true. And a choice of mine. But please do not take away my one means of protecting myself. A means that is guaranteed by our constitution. I also heard a lot of figures being discussed as far as rates of gun deaths. But in the overall scheme of things the amounts are little compared to other things. How many kids die on a daily basis from driving recklessly. Or driving while they are texting? Why do we not ban cell phones? It is already illegal to be on the phone and drive, but people do it anyway. Maybe they should have to be locked up while someone is driving?? I don't see that happening, yet it kills more people everyday than guns do. I am not immune to the tragedy that guns bring. My own husband died because of a gun. An accident. But still a death, and it left me to raise 3 kids and run a farm on my own. But even then it has not diminished my belief in my right to own and use a gun or to teach my children how to be a responsible gun owner.

Guns are a tool, they only become weapons that do harm in the hands of people who intend to do harm. Laws will not stop them. But these laws will make good law abiding citizens into criminals. I, a 50 year old farming grandma will probably be one of them.

*Thank you for your tiime and consideration
Denise Greif*