

## Written Testimony

Senate Bill 978

Dash 1 Amendments

Oppose

I am writing to ask the Senate Judiciary committee to oppose the Dash 1 amendments Senate Bill 978 in their entirety.

I live on a farm in East Multnomah County. I am an avid hunter, sports shooter and gun owner. I have a Concealed Handgun License issued by Multnomah County.

I value my legal rights to own and carry firearms as protected by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The Dash 1 Amendments have numerous restrictions and severe penalties that impact my ability to own and use firearms. It is a punitive bill that penalizes law abiding, gun owning citizens. While everyone is rightfully horrified at shootings in schools and public places, SB 978 is not the answer. I would hope that the legislature would spend more time dealing with the underlying issues of mental health, school bullying, increased funding for law enforcement, and enforcement of the plethora of gun laws already in effect and less time penalizing of honest citizens.

I value our police officers, but our Sheriff's offices are undermanned, response times in rural Oregon are slow. Home invasions, property theft, car jackings and violent crimes are all threats to farms, homes and families. Getting a police officer to my home generally takes over an hour.

I am glad that there is a contingent of professional, and well-trained, police officers at the Capitol. The Capitol and the people in it need that security. Unfortunately, those of us in rural areas and our urban friends don't enjoy the luxury of that kind of protection. Often, we have to rely on ourselves and our neighbors.

SB 978 allows for firearms dealers to establish an age range for citizens allowed to purchase guns. As a result, a dealer can preclude an 18 year old, who can join the military and fight for their country, from buying guns and accessories. How ironic and demeaning.

SB 978 mandates restrictive storage requirements. I keep all of my firearms in locked and safe storage. I have children. I am experienced in the safe use of firearms. However, a firearm that I cannot access quickly in the event of a home invasion is no longer a useful tool.

SB 978 makes me legally responsible for the use of a firearm in the hands of someone who stole it from me. I find it difficult to believe that the legislature would make me suffer a potential felony conviction after suffering a robbery and break in which valuables including my guns were stolen. I believe experience and precedent will show, that no amount of security or locking mechanisms can prevent determined thieves. To put a law-abiding citizen in that predicament is unconscionable.

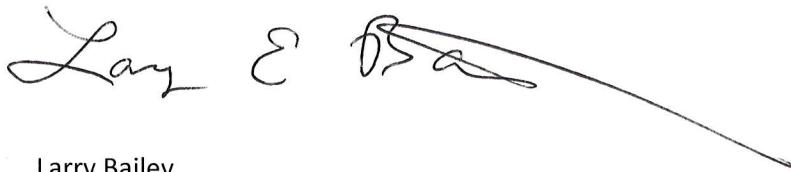
SB 978 places restrictions on unfinished frames or receivers. What about people who have made firearms legally prior to this legislation. There are people who build firearms and repair them as a hobby. Is the legislature in the business of retroactively punishing citizens for having a hobby?

SB 978 places further restrictions and costs on Concealed handgun Licenses. Why penalize people who pass background checks and follow the letter of the law to legally own a firearm? They are clearly not the problem.

SB 978 places severe restrictions on where legal gunowners can carry guns in public places. While there are some federal restrictions, the overreach of this bill has unintended consequences. If I am legally carrying a gun and picking up my spouse in the parking lot of a restricted area, should I be arrested?

Unfortunately, this bill will have no impact on those who are intent on breaking the law. It will serve only to impose severe and draconian restrictions on everyday law abiding Oregonians like me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry E. Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Larry Bailey

Senate District 26