

Good morning

I am addressing you this morning with one purpose in mind in regards to SB 978.

To paint a picture of the Supreme court ruling in relation to firearms and 243 years of adherence to not only the US Constitution, but even Article 1, section 27 of the Oregon Constitution.

2<sup>nd</sup> amendment clearly states : "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."

Oregon constitution clearly states: "The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defense of themselves, and the state, but the military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power."

The Supreme court decision of Heller vs. DC in 2008 brought about clarification in regards to meaning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment and how it is to be exercised.

Justice Scalia had some clear, yet strong things to say that made this very clear.

From this point forward, his words shall be emphasized in quotations.

"No where else in the constitution does a right attributed to the people refer to anything but an individual right."

And, "we start, therefore with a strong presumption that the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment right is exercised individually and belongs to all Americans."

"The most natural reading of "keep arms" in the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment is to have weapons."

And lastly, in regards to immobilizing a weapon in an individuals home, Justice Scalia found this to be worth including in his decision of the Heller case.

"The requirement that any lawful firearm in the home be disassembled or bound by a trigger lock makes it impossible for citizens to use arms for the core lawful purpose of self-defense and in hence unconstitutional."

And one last note, the statement "shall not be infringed", means to actively break the terms of a law, agreement, etc. so, as a concerned person living in Oregon, I sincerely hope that consideration for existing laws are strongly considered before casting a vote for such a violating, intrusive proposal as SB 978.

Thank you  
Jerry Clowers  
Portland Oregon