

Honorable Members of the Oregon Senate Committee On Judiciary:

I am writing you today to speak in opposition to the Dash 1 Amendments currently proposed to SB 978. These "last minute" proposals are nothing more than attacks on lawful firearms owners which will do nothing to stop criminals or crime. Particularly troublesome are the proposed changes to Oregon's concealed pistol law. Oregon's concealed carry permit holders are absolutely not the problem and this proposal is not a solution. Oregon's CHP holders are thoroughly vetted and have proven to be the citizens least likely to commit a crime, let alone a crime with a firearm. The right to self protection is not only guaranteed to all Americans by the US Constitution, it is also a basic human right. Please disregard the pressure to "do something even if it's wrong" when considering this draconian legislation. The problem you want to solve can be fixed with criminal control (the people responsible for the problem), instead of "gun control" - How 'bout you start with that?

In a broader scope I would like to address all of the anti-gun legislation being discussed during this legislative session. Magazine restrictions, firearm registration, draconian storage requirements and extreme protection orders that disregard due process all can be lumped together as ineffective and unconstitutional. None of these concepts has proven to work anywhere they've been tried because criminals don't follow the law - any law. Furthermore all of those concepts impose on the birthright guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution - The right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

Lastly: I am an Oregon native, a homeowner, and lawful firearm owner. Oregon has long been a place where personal freedoms matter, where diverse cultures are respected, and a place where we all enjoy our favorite pastimes in our own ways. Why now is it acceptable to single out a group of otherwise lawful citizens and pass laws to make them criminals? Why now is it acceptable to protect every right other than the 2nd Amendment? The simple answer is that it is not OK. It's not OK to single out lawful firearms owners and categorize us as 2nd class citizens. It is not OK to trample on our rights and it is not OK to pass useless laws just to encumber us. As Oregonians and US Citizens we are guaranteed more than just rights under the 2nd Amendment, we are guaranteed the right to equal protection under the law by the 14th Amendment which states:

*All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.*

Honorable Members, please do the right thing for your firearm owning constituents - Please protect our diversity instead of disregarding it, Please protect our rights, instead of trampling on them. Please consider the fact this is "feel good" legislation which will do nothing to stop criminals or crime but WILL damage us, Oregon's law abiding citizens.

Thank you