

I'd like to submit my written testimony RE: SB978, and it's amendment(s):

I've read through the proposed legislature thoroughly - several times - and I'd like to express my own concerns about the potential ramifications, restrictions, and potential harm the legislation could cause - inadvertently - to Oregonians who choose to keep and bear arms.

In no particular order:

Currently, Oregonians w/ a CHL are only restricted to a few areas - a couple of which, I believe, are federal laws, such as Post Offices. Otherwise, as many Oregonians travel into many different areas in Oregon throughout their average day, so do they carry their arms for legal protection of family, self, etc. If SB978 is allowed to pass unedited, the areas CHL possessors can travel w/o stopping to disarm, lock up the pistol, make sure it's secure in their vehicle, etc. will exponentially increase. It also creates the dreaded 'Patchwork of Legality' that all law-abiding gun owners dread. It's more difficult to remain on the right side of the law when it's constantly edited w/o notice to people who may or may not even watch the news, but to people as well that may not know exactly where they can and cannot legally carry concealed (or open carry, for that matter).

Next, as to the legislature RE locking up firearms, and the holding liable for 'X' amount of time thereafter the gun owner. I'm personally of the mindset that guns are safest when in a holster, on 'safe' and slung, or in a gun safe (or trigger lock, et al). The largest basis for this opinion is that I've got small kids. I keep potentially dangerous items locked. Not "Up high where they cannot reach", which is a fallacy, but literally unavailable to children. Having said what is likely the opinion of many Oregonians, we should also consider the fact that not everybody has kids, or is in the stage of life in which small kids are even likely to be in or around the home (or other place where firearms may be present).

So, as Oregon's legislators, I trust that you would consider that many Oregonians are either single (no children), older (adult children), or retirement age. I didn't research the demographics, but I'll bet a good portion of Oregon falls within these parameters. So, doesn't it make the most sense to leave Oregon's current law stand, and let Oregonians decide what method (or lack thereof when appropriate) works best for them?

Finally, I'd like to make a general comment about the unprecedented onslaught of anti-gun bills being considered in Oregon this year:

In Oregon, we are mostly rural and semi-rural. While the population centers lie in the PDX Metro area and Salem, most other towns are smaller and suffer from a great deal less crime. Oregon has had its instances of gun crime - even a couple of what could be defined 'mass shootings'.

But, - and here's the rub for many of us - it *will not*....it *can not* make us safer to restrict gun laws for the very people who are the law-abiding Oregonian! You can't possibly expect that the individuals you say you're targeting w/ these restrictions - the criminals - will comply! These people - the criminals, who largely make life less pleasant for the rest of us that make up the majority, don't care what law you make! They are criminals! By their very nature and definition, they don't follow the law.

So I sincerely hope that even the most die-hard anti-gun among you can consider this: Legislation such as what is proposed in SB978 will ONLY restrict and harm the law-abiding. It will, in fact, give criminals a

BOOST. Where they know that legal CHL holders are barred from concealed carry, they AREN'T. Where the rest of us will honor the law, they WON'T.

Please, please, please....consider these things when you go to do your duty. We, The People of Oregon have entrusted, elected you to represent us to the best of your ability. Many of you are actually fantastic individuals to which I have spoken w/ over the phone, via email, and even ye old Snail Mail (still alive, luckily!), and who have been incredibly helpful, explanatory, and kind to me.

This isn't a partisan issue. It's a matter of continuing to let Oregonians make personal choices for themselves, w/o interference from the state. Oregonians can't be stuffed into a one-size-fits-all piece of legislature that says in a binary fashion how Oregonians must handle their own private property. It's a matter of restricting a basic civil right.

Thank you for reading my email. I appreciate your time.

-Tom Homan
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