

Greetings,

I attended the hearing this morning regarding SB 798-1. Obviously as you saw by the attendance there, and as documented in the witness registration, there is overwhelming opposition to the amendment as written. I am a responsible gun owner, and I am in favor of reasonable legislation to address gun crimes, but this action will not hamper criminals, rather it will make law abiding citizens criminals. You have a myriad of facts and opinions, and I will simply outline those especially important to me.

- This is not an “emergency”, and the action you are taking skirts the system. Take it up as a referendum as it should be done. Obviously you already know that by the numbers in opposition versus the numbers in favor, you have a good idea what that outcome would be. It will get challenged in court and the State of Oregon will likely lose costing excessive time and resources that could be spent on better things.
- I am in favor of sensible locks and security for firearms, and always make sure mine are locked up, but available to use in seconds if needed. I don’t have a problem with that and it is a good practice for everyone. That being said, holding a victim of a theft accountable for two years for what some criminal may do with the stolen firearm is simply ludicrous. If my car is stolen, am I responsible for someone committing vehicular homicide? See how silly that is?
- Altering the existing public spaces where a CHL licensee may carry, including “adjacent property” is problematic and won’t help any problems. You have seen the statistics on “gun free zones” and the fact that they are prime targets for those wishing to do harm. There are already strict access points in airports with secure areas in sensitive areas. What exactly are you trying to accomplish with expanding the restrictions to parking structures and adjacent property of airports?

Some things in this bill are ok, but there are too many items where you just didn’t think this all the way through. Don’t shove this amendment through just to make it look like you are doing something constructive. Get some bi-partisan support for some meaningful legislation and do it the right way.

Sincerely,

Matt Shiner
Monroe
Benton County
OR