

My name is Isaac MacDonald and I am one of the many Oregonians affected by this bill.

First I would like to draw your attention to the false premise that the presence, number, and characteristics of firearms are a cause of crime. You will notice that on March 23rd, thousands of law abiding gun owners came peaceably together. The reason an apocalyptic wave of crime did not erupt was due to the character of the individuals in possession of those firearms: the very people these bills impact the most.

Licensed concealed carry handgun owners are one of the most law-abiding demographics in the country. The items in these bills that attack CHL holders afflict the most law-abiding demographic, and do nothing to stop the least law-abiding demographic: criminals.

The expansion of CHL-free zones also means that firearms will have to be left behind in vehicles, where they may be stolen, thus condemning the citizen under these new rules.

I offer an alternative focus for your consideration. Focus instead on the growing mental health crisis. Many would argue that those who intend to commit mass shootings are by definition mentally ill. Focus on the bipolar and schizophrenic people wandering our communities. Focus on treatment.

You have students who come to you saying they want to feel safe. Well I ask you to do more. I ask you to make them actually safe. Help our youth who are right now dying. Plagued with suicidal tendencies and under the influence of drugs.

Stop attacking law-abiding citizens. Attack the lawless. And deal with the underlying mental health crisis.

I would also like to mention that when the Attorney General gave her testimony on "ghost guns" she included points in her testimony that prove the ineffectiveness of this bill to stop "ghost guns". First, she outlined that "ghost gun" technology continues to improve, some 3D-printed firearms being capable of firing hundreds of rounds without failing. Second, she outlined that some firearms with 3D-printed parts were seized from organized crime. Thirdly, she stated that the "ghost guns" either were being sold or would be sold on the black market. Essentially, she herself argues that: 1) "ghost gun" schematics are already disseminated among the population, 2) organized crime already has the schematics and had used them to print firearms, 3) these firearms are already being sold on the black market. In conclusion,

the genie is out of the bottle. Criminals already have "ghost guns" and this law cannot stop them from spreading what they already know. However, SB 978 does attack law-abiding citizens who have manufactured their own firearm (which is legal) or purchased 80% lowers/receivers (which is legal). Again, these sections of the -1 amendment fail to penalize criminals while turning law-abiding citizens into criminals.

I urge you to please vote no on SB 978.

~Isaac MacDonald