

My apology for trouble seeing my original submission.

Robert Foster  
[rapidfoster@verizon.net](mailto:rapidfoster@verizon.net)

Senate Committee On Judiciary

RE: SB978 with amendments

Honorable Senators,

My career includes 23 years of responsibility for health and safety in a public school district with over 18,000 students and employees. I have paid close attention to school shootings and mass shootings. I am OPPOSED to SB978.

One of the biggest and most consistent frustrations in my school safety career has been people's focus on the wrong things in trying to address a safety concern. The outcome is wasted effort, large expenditures, lots of disruption, complex new rules and no impact on the problem. This bill fits that pattern.

It would not have prevented any school shootings or mass shootings I have studied. Those involve preparation by shooters who are ready to die. They will not be deterred by inconvenient access to guns or stiffer criminal penalties. Experience shows a shooting ended by a citizen on-scene with a gun ends the situation far faster, with one sixth the fatalities, compared to those ended by police. I am not arguing to arm school staff. Concealed carry permittees have a strikingly low incidence of crime and no record of mass shootings. Making it less likely one of them would be around when they could help, will not make students or the public safer.

It will not reduce crime or have an impact on criminals. They are already committing crimes and do not obtain guns through legal channels in any case. Creating more laws for them to break will not deter their activity.

It will make felons of a large number of otherwise honest citizens, who present no threat to anyone. It invites inconsistent, arbitrary enforcement. In so doing, it will promote disrespect for the law and the criminal justice system.

Many provisions are vague and conflict with Federal law, would be impossible to follow, unenforceable and unconstitutional. I believe some provisions have already been tossed out by Federal Courts in cases from other states.

The bill will generate years of litigation. That will be a huge burden for citizens trying to defend themselves and for the State.

Criminal possession of a firearm without a serial number will eliminate many firearms manufactured when serial numbers were not required. Shooters do not leave the gun's number to be matched later. Serial number requirements will not prevent, or aid in solving crimes.

Storage requirements and local-option restrictions on concealed carry in public facilities will make possession of firearms so onerous and expensive, with criminal consequences for inadvertent or unavoidable violations, that many people whose guns are not a threat will abandon ownership.

Wholesale elimination of arms held by honest people for non-threatening purposes will not increase public safety. To do so via gut-and-stuff seems a clear attempt to avoid thorough review of far reaching legislation. That sense is heightened by applying emergency status to the bill, when there is no new emergency situation, thereby eliminating opportunity for challenges.

I urge you to reject a costly and ineffective bill. It contains an array of measures that feel good, or look good to certain constituencies, but do nothing to protect students or the public generally. It will divert resources without any impact on the targeted problem.

Respectfully,

Robert Foster, ARM  
(Associate in Risk Management)  
Sunriver, OR