

Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee
Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chairman
April 2, 2019

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Prozanski and members of the Committee:

Thank you on behalf of Walmart Inc. for allowing our submittal of this written testimony supporting language that clarifies ‘minimum age sales,’ in Senate Bill 978, dash-1 amendment. Walmart employs over 11,000 associates in the State of Oregon across 43 store locations and our distribution center. It is our mission to offer our customers all of the products they want in an easy, convenient shopping experience and safe environment for our customers, suppliers and associates.

The permission to take certain ages into account when selling firearms is consistent with the current state of the law, although some additional clarification is needed. As Lane County Circuit Court Judge Charles D. Carlson recently concluded in *Dalbeck v. Bi-Mart Corporation*, Case No. 18CV28947: “The Court simply cannot find that a seller of firearms is legally precluded from reasonably restricting such sales to individuals 21 years or older.” (A copy of Judge Carlson’s order is attached.)

SB 978 provides the legislature the opportunity to reaffirm Judge Carlson’s finding that persons age 18-20 are not a protected class. Judge Carlson’s conclusion is consistent with how the legislature has treated other activities by allowing age restrictions for “car rental agreements, possession of explosives, food/alcohol service, gaming, commercial driving, insurance,” and so forth.

Walmart supports the language found in SB 978, Dash-1 Sections 1, 2 and 3 and asks the Senate Judiciary committee to move adoption of these sections into SB 978.

Sincerely,

Deborah Herron, Public Affairs and State & Local Government Relations, Walmart, Inc.