Dear Senate,

I am a 22-year-old girl who is against the SB978 bill and its amendment. This will affect me very personally by taking away my ability to easily conceal carry my hand gun which I rely on to feel safe every day. I am a small and pretty girl; these facts have led me to be targeted more than once by predators in my community. I have been trained in martial arts, had dozens of professional self-defense courses, and was trained in the use of pepper spray. The problem is every one of those tools is for close range conflicts and relies on my physical ability which even at its peak will never match that of the male predator. The only tool I have that evens out that power deficit is my fire arm, which I have diligently trained in its responsible use. I am just a girl, yet I have been cornered by up to 8 guys at once who wanted to play with me like a toy... Please, I beg you, don't take away my right to effectively defend myself because of the actions of the people who become my attackers. The criminals need no weapon to be lethal to me as a small girl, but I desperately need my fire arm to survive the criminals. My story is not an uncommon one and I speak on behalf of many girls I know who have experienced the same.

This bill only serves to make criminals out of us law abiding citizens, while the criminals, by definition, do not follow the law and will not be swayed at all by this bill. You will only succeed in further disarming their victims for their convenience and the demise of us young women. Please focus on containing those criminals, and getting to the root of the problem, which is normally drug abuse, and mental problems.

Sincerely,

Audrey