

Distinguished members of the committee; my name is Michael Yonkman and I live here in Salem. I am opposed to this radical new anti gun legislation that is being proposed out of an emotive response to tragedies that have occurred recently. This legislation is dangerous, as it is one step closer to total disarmament of the public. The Second Amendment was written because our founding fathers wanted to safeguard against tyrannical government so they gave the PEOPLE the right to keep and bear arms. "The right of the people to keep and bear arms SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED". Every new gun law being proposed has one thing in common: they target law-abiding citizens, while failing to keep guns from violent criminals. Passing SB 978, or any of these draconian gun laws only hurts law abiding Oregonians by stripping them of their God given right to self-defense and self preservation, giving the criminal the upper hand in an attack. Anything other than "shall issue" is unacceptable when it comes to concealed carry and under SB 978, it would make it almost impossible to leave your home with a firearm without the risk of committing a felony. This bill puts law abiding Oregonians at risk of losing their lives at the hands of criminals. I urge you to do the right thing, uphold the constitution and vote no on this dangerous legislation. If you pass SB 978 we will vote you out!