

Re: SB 978 and it's various amendments

To the Judiciary Committee members:

I am very distressed with the various Firearms control bills that are moving in in Salem this year. Frankly I am having a hard time tracking of them all.

There is far too much hysteria in the media AND complete disregard for the reasons a large number of Oregonians own firearms, as recognized by our Oregon Constitution – to protect ourselves.

While the media focuses on the unlawful use of a firearm, it seems no-one is talking about the many times every day that "Good Guys" with guns prevent a tragedy from happening. Often without even pulling the trigger. Just this month in our national Realtor trade magazine an article appeared stating that 1 in 6 REALTORS now are arming ourselves to protect against the crazies out there in the world, when we are just doing our jobs, showing houses. This is a very real, often unreported issue that occurs right here in Oregon.

PLEASE DO NOT LET OUR STATE make us criminals for choosing to defend ourselves and not become a "Victim"!

Murder has been against the law for thousands of years. There is no evidence to believe that more laws will help. The evidence goes against the drastic measures that are being proposed. Viewing the FBI Crime stats show that despite dramatic increases in gun ownership in recent years Gun fatalities have gone down by all measures. The increases are in the areas with the strict gun laws.

Taking away the rights of citizens to protect themselves is simply WRONG and violates BOTH our State and US Constitution. I hope you understand that when seconds count, in most parts of this state, Law Enforcement personnel are only minutes (some areas hours) away! Too late to stop a tragedy!

PLEASE VOTE NO on SB 978.

Thank you for your consideration.

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