

SB 978 – In Opposition

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting my testimony in opposition to SB 978.

This bill is yet another attempt to limit the rights of the people of Oregon to keep and bear arms and violates due process, in that the person being required to deliver his firearms does not have opportunity, before the order is issued, to face his accusers.

My main concern regarding this bill is that it is yet another attempt to place the people under a labyrinth of laws to limit the rights of the people to defend themselves, both against private persons and tyrannical government. In fact, I believe that it is the hidden agenda of those behind the creation of such laws is to deprive or place roadblocks in the paths of the people of the right to defend themselves so that they may more easily be ruled by despotic and totalitarian governments.

The Second Amendment to the US Constitution specifies an unqualified right to defend oneself. It is a natural right. Creating a labyrinth of laws governing how firearm owners can store their firearms, the ages at which people can purchase firearms, or any other laws infringe on those rights and are in violation of the Constitution. I firmly believe that those who attempt to create such laws are in violation of their oaths of office, as they have taken an oath to defend the Constitution. I recall when I asked Sara Gelser at a Town Hall Meeting on 5 April 2019 at the Albany Public Library regarding the constitutionality of such firearm laws, she replied that the such laws can be challenged in court. Challenging such laws can be time consuming and expensive and advising me and other attendees that we could challenge such laws is evading her prime responsibility of defending the Constitution. Sara Gelser is egregiously violating her oath to the Constitution, and is therefore inadequately performing her job.

I am becoming irritated and outraged at the constant assault on our natural rights to defend ourselves. We seem to be continually having to oppose laws that violate our rights to defend ourselves. It is time for the proposing of such laws that limit our natural rights to cease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel Thomas Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Samuel Thomas Lewis

Albany, Linn County, Oregon