

My name is Stuart Clubb.

I am a resident of Clackamas County and registered voter.

I ask that you reject amendments to SB-978.

Vote NO. And kill the bill in committee.

These amendments have been sprung on the public, with little time for review or debate. They turn a 10-line bill into a 44-page omnibus bill that seeks to create criminals out of law abiding Oregonians. Not for harming anyone, or taking anything from anyone, but for doing things they have done for decades without harm to others.

As law abiding Concealed Handgun License holders, this bill will make my wife and I commit felonies nearly every day because we walk on grounds "adjacent to" a school. It will, under penalty of felony, disarm us whenever we pick anyone up at PDX airport, or take kids to and from school or college. It might even unwittingly make us felons if we enter property that is unknowingly owned by a school or college.

Further, because this bill now requires that we lock up our means of protection while we are not able to carry it (including pepper spray), Oregonians will now be more vulnerable to real criminals as we conduct our day to day lives. The idea that you believe making Oregonians felons for a morning walk, or driving to the airport, or many other activities previously enjoyed with no harm to anyone, is deeply troubling. It serves no crime reduction purpose.

I urge you not to turn hundreds of thousands of law abiding unblemished Oregonians into felons.

I am sure that criminals in Oregon will be grateful to you for reducing and restricting the ability of law abiding citizens to protect themselves. By passing this bill as amended, you will make criminal activities safer.

Victims of crime should hold you strictly liable for any crime that cannot be defended against as a result of this legislation.

Sadly, the next mass school shooter in Oregon will now be assured that anyone at a school, or on grounds "adjacent to" a school has been disarmed, in advance, by you.

While you do nothing to address the causes of gun violence.

Please think of effective ways to protect our children in schools and colleges. Perhaps implement real physical security and the same level of protection that you enjoy while doing your job in the legislature.

These amendments also propose to enshrine and protect discrimination against those under 21 who can legally purchase rifles and shotguns under Federal law. While we can argue that this will be circumvented by having friends, parents or relatives purchase these firearms and transfer them legally, we must ask how this legislation will have any effect on crime. Further, we heard testimony on April 2nd from those supporting these amendments, that young adults do not have fully developed decision-making skills until after 21. Yet the Oregon Legislature also proposes that sixteen year olds be given the vote.

Can those under 21 be trusted to make decisions or can they not?

For many years, we have held that 18 is old enough to get married, sign a contract, own a firearm, serve in the military or on a Jury, etc. Yet now we plan to tell independent self-supporting law abiding Oregon citizens that they are now second class citizens that cannot be trusted and should be discriminated against.

Young Oregonians deserve better.

I see also that the -1 Amendment proposes to retroactively pardon corporations or individuals who have engaged in age discrimination (in violation of existing Oregon Law) where the "final judgment" has not yet been entered.

That is a shameful use of legislation and shows the true hatred for gun ownership that the authors of these amendments have.

These amendments now require that we "lock up our safety" and makes us criminals if we are the victim of crime. Most responsible gun owners already secure their firearms in some manner when not in use, especially when there are children in the home. However, when children are not in the home, this bill will still make criminals of Oregonians if we do not store our firearms in a manner prescribed by government.

Even when our homes are locked and the only means of theft would be breaking and entering, you would hold us "strictly liable" for the criminal actions of others if we cannot prove that the firearm was stored in a mandated way. It is truly vindictive to punish the victims of crime. But this further illustrates the hatred the authors of these amendments have for legal firearm ownership.

The legislation proposes that a "cable lock" or trigger lock be mandated, yet cable locks are easily defeated with hand tools. They will be no deterrent to criminals or teenagers planning to kill.

Trigger locks may look more intimidating, yet there are YouTube videos showing that these are even easier to defeat:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P397UsoyNBc&has_verified=1

Passing a safe storage law will not make irresponsible parents suddenly responsible. Additionally, many of these incidents of unsecured firearm access are a result of felons being in possession of firearms. Criminals and the irresponsible will not obey your law.

Unauthorized access to firearms by minors is a serious issue. Please let law abiding Oregonians continue to make choices for themselves and their families.

Criminalizing Oregonians making their own choices about personal safety and firearm storage may well lead to loss of life as the law abiding lock up their safety through fear of a vindictive legislature holding them responsible for the crimes of others.

When it comes to personal protection, as has been ruled by SCOTUS many times, the police and the State have no duty to protect citizens as individuals. They may do their best to help, but they cannot be held liable if there are no officers available, or even if they choose not to respond:

Caetano vs Massachusetts

Warren vs District of Columbia

Gonzales vs Castle Rock

DeShaney vs Winnebago County

Citizens are the first responders. The police only come when called. If they can. We are the ONLY immediate protector of ourselves and our families. Yet you would disarm us, restrict us, and require that we lock up our means of protection.

There are many other appalling parts of this legislation that do nothing but persecute, and place in legal jeopardy, law abiding Oregonians.

Again, I urge you to reject the bill completely and spend what little legislative session time there is addressing the real and desperate needs of Oregonians.

Sincerely

Stuart Clubb