

Representatives,

I was able to attend the hearing for SB 978 earlier this week. While the bill addresses some good points for safe storage and suicide prevention, it also puts unnecessary restrictions on the law abiding CHL holder. These restrictions put people in greater risk by not being able to defend themselves.

I would like to ask for a few moments of your time to express why I object to SB978 I appreciate you taking the time to hear my opinion.

If you are interested in hearing my story and why I would be impacted by SB978 I would like to share it with you.

To provide some context, I am 44 years old with a wife and two 8 year old daughters.

I have had a concealed handgun license since I was 21 and have always taken that right seriously and understood the responsibility that comes with it.

Because of that I have taken several professional handgun courses by qualified instructors. All of which also instruct law enforcement personnel.

Because I feel that fire arm safety is paramount, I continue to train regularly.

On June 17, 2017 our family was vacationing near Florence with several other family members.

Because it was a vacation house our two young daughters were sleeping in our room. At approximately 1:00 A.M. we woke to find an intruder standing on our girls air mattress.

My wife and I were able to remove our girls from the room while I retrieved my firearm. The intruder refused to leave and threatened to do us harm.

Without going into all of the fine details, we were able to get the five youths and 6 adults into one bedroom while the intruder continued to advance and threaten us.

After several demands to leave, I was forced to shoot him from advancing to protect my family.

Fortunately it was not fatal. Although even after being shot and forced out of the house he continued to attempt to force entry back in.

We were on the phone with 911 for the whole ordeal, But it took law enforcement 1:15 minutes to arrive.

YES....we were keeping an intruder at bay for over an hour.

If SB 978 was in effect, I would not have been able to even travel to the location with my firearm even though I am a valid CHL holder because I would have traveled adjacent to a public building.

If we had been threatened by the attacker near a public building I would have been un-armed and unable to protect my family. The restrictions that this bill puts on law abiding citizens who have already gone through extensive background checks to obtain a CHL negates the entire purpose of having one.

My family is at greater risk when my wife and I are unarmed and unable to defend them.

Why would the representatives of the people of this great state want to decrease the citizens ability to protect their families, while not addressing criminal behavior?

The fact that the CHL holder is going to lose rights, is only punishing the law abiding citizen. If the CHL holder had ever committed a felony, they wouldn't be a CHL holder.

One of the more persuasive speakers in favor of SB 978 was a woman describing the lock down drills that students have to go through and the fear that they experience.

I thought of my own two daughters in second grade who have also had to go through these drills. I asked them how it made them feel and what their thoughts were about them.

Their response was that it was a bit scary, but that our family had already been through a real lock down drill. (from our experience with the home intruder).

I would like to point out the primary difference between our lock down drill, and the ones at the schools.

In our drill, I was able to immediately address the intruder and STOP THE THREAT.

No innocent people were hurt and no children lost their lives.

I urge you to vote no on SB 978 so good families can continue to protect their families.

I hope that you can see where firearms can provide safety.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my position

Chris Woodward

Chris Woodward

[chris@chriswoodward.org](mailto:chris@chriswoodward.org)

woodwardforestry.com

503-539-6656