

I am an Oregon tax resident and tax payer. I have never been an advocate toward guns, and never liked guns in houses. Unfortunately, times have changed. The friendly town feeling has been replaced with the constant need for me and my family to watch our backs. We are having to learn self defense as a need and not as a hobby or exercise. This is so very sad, but so very real because the local authorities do not carry the threat to criminals as they once had.

I have read and am aware of all safety requirements concerning guns in the home. My husband and I had each member of our family take gun safety classes before we ever handled a gun. I respect our Oregon gun laws and abide by them as a good citizen.

I have read SB978 as written and amended. It is not something I would support due to it being fast-tracked, and loosely written. It hinders my ability to exercise my constitutional right to have and carry a gun responsibly as a tool to protect myself in this state. If I should choose to have a legally approved concealed carry gun, this bill takes that safety away from me in so many areas, that my ability to carry it would be undone.

I do believe the few people that have chosen to use guns in a violent manner, did not check to see if they were in compliance with any laws. Therefore this bill will not take the guns out of their hands...if they want something, they find a way to get it.

I do feel that gun owners with small children in their house should take extra precautions for those precious little ones...and most do.... but there will always be the exception. Please don't allow SB978 to take away my rights and safety because of the lack of common sense in a few people. I want to know that there are more responsible conceal-carrying people around me that could come to my aid than just the police officer that might be 20-40 minutes away! SB 978 would destroy that protection. Oregon is not getting less criminals!

One last concern is that many people said that the gun was responsible for suicides in the state. I believe the mental health of our youth is to blame for this. Families are broken, and I blame this trend on the fact that prayer was taken out of schools. We need to provide more resources for schools. We must insist on more teachers to lessen class sizes. We need to pay teachers better so we can promote education fully. We need to add more counselors that are available to these schools. By carefully growing the children in our community and showing them how much we value education for them, we will graduate more successful citizens. This in itself could lessen the amount of criminals that our statistics reflect. SB978 will not give us more support for the mental state of our youth. Better school environments and perhaps a young person's gun safety class could make a difference.

I do not approve of SB 978. Please do not waste my tax dollars on more amendments to this bill or time devoted to it. Instead, put that money into our Police Departments and our schools!! Thank you!!

Hello,

I would like to oppose this bill SB 978 for the following reasons.

We were told to speak from the heart at the hearing so I am going to take a paragraph to tell a little about me and why I feel the way I do.

I am 50 and have only owned a gun for less than two years. I never thought about my 2nd amendment rights and simply did not pay attention. My thoughts on this topic changed after someone close to me was attacked and was not big enough to fight off five men. While I don't really like guns it is one of the few things that can make a fight more equal when you cannot get away. I don't think a gun is the answer for all situations, it is a tool of last resort but is the most effective most of us have access to which why I am opposed to restrictions. It's not hard to find stories of how guns have saved many lives.

This amendment sections 26 to 29 allows local authorities to regulate firearms in public buildings. If each local authority has different rules the concealed handgun license carriers it will make it confusing and difficult to understand where to lawfully carry a concealed handgun. It would be like the driving rules changing from city to city.

Concealed handgun license owners and gun owners go through background checks when they obtain their license or purchase guns. By passing these checks it would seem reasonable to believe these are not criminals. These are the kind of people I would prefer to be armed and be around.

Generally speaking all of these measures in SB978 address restricting law abiding citizens and their right to own guns. Nothing in this bill will make anyone safer.

Most gun owners lock up their guns when not in use because it is a good practice. Requiring it by law is not necessary. There are all kinds of dangerous things that are not locked up all the time. When will a laws be made for those? Requiring cars locked when unattended? Locking up drugs in your house since prescriptions may be addictive. When will we need a permit to buy a sharp knife or nail gun. What about the common household items that can be used to make bombs?

Don't make people responsible for crimes that occur with stolen weapons. That make no sense.

I don't see anything in this bill that addresses the criminals who by definition do not follow the law.

If I thought this bill would actually make me or my family safer I would whole heartedly agree with it but it doesn't. It only makes law abiding citizens less safe.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns,

Have a great day!

Robert Fonseca