

To whom it may concern:

I am a gun owner with a CHL and I support some of what SB978 proposes. Firearms should be secured to prevent kids and convicted criminals from getting access to them. I have four precious grandkids and I want them to be as safe as possible - at school and wherever they go. I believe the one section (section 26) in particular will do just the opposite. It will remove CHL citizens from carrying a firearm to a school event (or an event in any other public building) reducing the likelihood they can intervene. People who are intent on murder will not be stopped by a "no firearms allowed" sign on a building. On the other hand, there is very little evidence that CHL holders commit crimes and there is evidence they may actually save lives. CHL holders may be the first armed "good guy" with a firearm to stop gun-related crime.

The worst part of SB 978 is the added restrictions placed on Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders. These people are already vetted and statistically, are extremely unlikely to commit a gun-related crime. However, when a public "mass shooting" is being committed, often times a citizen with a CHL will intervene and actually save lives - at their own peril. I know of at least two cases where a mass shooting was interrupted by a citizen with a CHL. One was the church shooting in Texas.

We all want the same thing - a safer state where we can raise our kids. Please consider laws that will make it harder for bad guys to get guns. There are many things we can do to make sure guns do not end up in the wrong hands. I implore you to make smart gun laws that will keep firearms out of the hands of bad guys but keeping guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens - enabling them to defend themselves, their families, and maybe even intervene and defend the public (people they do not even know).

If you focus new gun-control laws on criminals instead of law-abiding licensed citizens, I think you would find many people who oppose gun control will work with you to reduce gun deaths. Imagine working with responsible, knowledgeable CHL citizens and the Oregon Lawmakers working TOGETHER toward our common goal. I'm sure you are aware that many more people testified that they oppose SB978 than testified in support of it. Please represent the people. And I strongly encourage you to work with CHL holders on ideas they have to make us safer. I promise you they are able and willing to help.

Suggestions that will work:

Good, thorough background checks (even if it takes a week to do).

Safe storage of firearms.

Vigorously pursue and prosecute people who commit a crime with a firearm.

Leave our CHL laws as they are. Here are some facts to consider:

http://www.gunfacts.info/gun-control-myths/concealed-carry/?fbclid=IwAR1KWUZekE_1uqHCDXrE9o5ahQWn_pXs8w1PpVXgRe0ufYExQ3pt4mAXHyo

Imagine a LESS DIVIDED and SAFER OREGON.

Respectfully,
Richard Woodford (CHL holder, father, grandfather, law-abiding citizen)
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If I am reading SB 978 correctly, section 26 appears to give local governments the ability to prohibit the possession of a firearm in a public building - even by concealed carry license holders.

I have a concealed carry license and 4 grandkids from age 2-9. I often attend events at their schools. When I can do so legally, I often try to carry a firearm to these events - precisely because I love my grandkids - they mean everything to me.

Being that felons are already banned from having a firearm at all and probably do not have concealed carry licenses, I'm afraid this bill would ban the least-likely people to commit a gun-related crime. Is there any evidence at all that a concealed carry license holder is a danger to the general public?

Please don't let the Democrats establish yet another "gun-free zone". I'm sure you know that people intent on mass-murder are probably not going to respect this rule. No matter the intent by your colleagues, the impact of this bill may be:

Law-abiding citizens (who have concealed carry licenses), who simply wish to defend their families, may be prohibited from carrying a firearm into schools and other public buildings (open to the public).

Bad people (who don't have a permit), will likely ignore this law.

As a result, our schools will be LESS safe. If I cannot protect my family in a public place, I will hold the state responsible for their safety.

I would love to see a law that actually aims to reduce the threat posed by bad people - not simply reducing the ability of good people to fight back.

Respectfully,

Richard Woodford