

April 4, 2019

To the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Committee Members,

On Tuesday, I was in Room 50, ready to testify against SB978 and the proposed amendments. I was not called upon, yet I listened intently to both sides of this proposal. Thank you for reading my words now for my right to testify.

My name is Rebecca Shierman, a 70 year old grandmother who has lived and worked in Clackamas County for over 44 years. I am urging you to vote against SB 978 and all the Dash 1 Amendments.

What I heard by proponents of this bill is that they believe it would reduce the suicide rate. I heard testimony that 79% of current Oregon gun owners do lock their guns when they are not in use. I am one of those who safely locks my gun when not in use and I store my ammunition in a separate location as I was trained to do. If it is accurate that a high majority of gun owners do this that means that this bill addresses the 21% who supposedly do not. There is no concrete research that shows that if the 21% locked their guns that the suicide rate and the violent crime rate with guns would go down. Criminals will not change their behavior because of this becoming law.

Even if the suicide rate did go down, the violent crime rate will certainly go up. It has been repeatedly shown that criminals will then have free range in all gun free zones because there will be no opposition as there is now by law abiding citizens who conceal carry in these areas. It is well documented that CHL holders nationwide prevent a huge percent of criminal activity.

The line of reasoning by the proponents of this bill that locking all guns up at all times when not in use and by removing all CHL from most public areas of our State will somehow reduce violent crime by criminals is along the same lines of reasoning as someone who says "I don't NEED a smoke detector, that is what the Fire Department is for". If you think that kind of reasoning is foolish, then you should see that removing law abiding, trained citizens like me from having their firearm readily available and free to conceal carry in public places is just as foolish.

This law will not reduce violent crime by guns. It will increase it and make old ladies like me more vulnerable to criminal attack.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote AGAINST SB 978 and all the Dash 1 Amendments.

Thank you for giving attention to my testimony.

~Rebecca Shierman

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