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Thank you

Chairman Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the committee,

My name is Derek Becker and I live in Beaverton, Oregon. I am here today to express my opposition to Senate Bill 978. In the following I will attempt to address the major provisions of this bill one by one.

Beginning Sections 1. Raising the minimum age purchase a firearm in Oregon.

This flies in the face of most other minimum age requirements. 18 is considered the age of majority which entitles those who reach majority to vote, enter into contracts, borrow money and most importantly die for our Country while serving in the US Military. Efforts underway in this legislature to lower the voting age to 16 certainly contradicts your attempt to raise the age to purchase a firearm. Raising the age indicates that the government does not think that an individual under the age of 21 has the emotional or mental maturity to own a firearm but a 16-year-old has the maturity to make a well-reasoned decision regarding our most precious and important civic duty; Voting.

Sections 4 - 12. Firearm Storage, Loss or Theft Reporting and Access by Minors

On its face, this provision of the bill is absurd. How can a room or a box be considered a locked "container" but a house, which is basically a box is not? A locked box, a locked room, and a locked house are all locked.

Requiring a trigger or cable lock on all guns renders all guns useless and of no more use than a club. If your door is being kicked in by a home invader intent on causing bodily harm, you need the ability to defend and protect yourself. When seconds count, impediments to accessing a shotgun, for instance, could mean the difference between life and death for you and your family. As has been proved many times over: when seconds count, the police are only minutes away.

In the event a law-abiding citizen loses their firearms to theft, this bill makes it incumbent on the victim of the crime of theft to prove a negative. One would be

required to prove that the stolen weapons were (past tense) secured according to the methods described in this section. Section 6, paragraph 1(b) states in part "... a firearm is not secured if a key, combination or other means of opening a lock or container is readily available to a person the owner or possessor has not authorized to carry or control the firearm." "Other means" could be a hammer or drill or prybar or screwdriver, etc. In other words, if someone breaks into your home and uses your tools to open the box, room, or container you, the victim, become liable for any crimes committed with the stolen weapons.

In a complete miscarriage of justice this section also provides that, if the victim of the theft cannot prove the negative, they become liable for any crimes committed by the perpetrator. Taking this one step further, it could then be argued that the owner of a car that has been stolen and used in the commission of a crime is liable for that crime if they could not prove that the vehicle had been secured with some device proscribed by law.

Beginning section 14. Undetectable and Untraceable Firearms

This section illustrates my R.R.O.B. principle quite well; Regulate, Restrict, Outlaw and Ban. 3D printed guns and non-serialized components do not and have not been shown to be a problem and are not illegal under Federal law. I invite you to show me a statistic that proves that a gun enthusiast who downloads a file to "print" gun parts, one that mills his or her own receiver or one that makes any other firearm part presents a clear and present danger to the community. The myth is that criminals will use these methods to obtain weapons with which to commit a crime. This is ludicrous as criminals do not have the patience or wherewithal to spend the time and money building a firearm. It is much easier to buy one from one of their cohorts. CDC studies have shown that the majority of firearms used in the commission of a crime to have been obtained illegally. Lastly, this provision, with the Bill's emergency clause, will immediately convert law abiding citizens into felons. Any Oregonian owning a non-serialized firearm receiver or 3D printed weapon would become felons the moment that this Bill becomes law. It is my sincere desire that this does not happen.

Section 24 &25. Concealed Handgun License Fees

Stated very simply, raising the cost of goods and services will result in fewer purchases of those goods and services. Raising the cost of obtaining a Concealed Handgun License in Oregon will result in fewer Oregonians applying. Perhaps that is the intent.

Section 26 - 29. Local Authority to Regulate Firearms in Public Buildings

In addition to creating a confusing and unworkable patchwork of laws, the public will not be safer. In fact, the reverse could very well be the case. In a report from 2016 the data shows that just 19 Oregon Concealed Handgun Licensees were convicted of a felony. This number includes all felonies not just firearms related felonies. The 19 convictions represent just 0.0074% of all felonies in the State. That's less than 1%.

In 2017 there were 256,943 CHL licensees, up somewhat from 2016. The 19 felony convictions represent something in the vicinity of .000074% of licensees. That's less than 1 tenth of 1 %.

As for mass shootings, a report issued by the Crime Prevention Research Center reported that mass shootings, between 1950 and May of 2018, in so-called gun free zones accounted for 97.8% of all mass shootings. Given this disturbing fact, why would you want to create more gun free zones?

It is estimated, by multiple sources, that there are around 1.1 million gun owners in Oregon and each one owns, on average, 5 firearms. That means that there are approximately 6 million guns in the State. If the 1.4 million Oregon citizens that own guns were the problem, believe me you would know it.

In closing, this bill is an attempt to exert more control over the lives of Oregonians in order to Regulate, Restrict, Outlaw and Ban more and more of our God-given and Constitutional rights. Given the facts and statistics, this bill does not solve any real problems and any emergency is purely imagined and not supported by any reality. If this Bill becomes law it will be unconstitutional and I will not comply.

Derek M. Becker

503-720-5626

