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Inanimate objects do not hurt or kill people. Blaming these objects is avoiding the real issue of human morality and responsibility. Blaming spoons for people being fat sounds absurd, or blaming cars for drunk driving accidents that kill innocent drivers and passengers every year, just as blaming a firearm for gun violence is absurd. The real problem that needs to be addressed is drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, and a general sense of human morality. Why now, are we having these outbreaks of violence? The rallies in downtown Portland where groups are seizing control of roadways and streets, yelling profanity at innocent drivers and pedestrians, causing property damage and personal harm to others. We are living in a world where people do not respect the rights of others and whoever yells the loudest gets the attention. Sounds like a Kindergarten classroom.

Criminals tend not to obey laws, for example, murder is against the law. Yet every year thousands of murders happen, whether by firearms, strangulation, knives, baseball bats, fists, etc. Another example, heroine, methamphetamines, and other drugs are illegal on a state and federal basis. Yet, we have a drug problem like we have never seen before. There is always a black market for items that are illegal, and the criminals, gang members, people with mental illness, and violent backgrounds will always have an avenue to get these items.

If my house or vehicle is locked, only those who enter with a key is authorized. Anyone else is breaking the law of breaking and entering. When my weapons are LOCKED in my home or vehicle, they should be considered secure. For me to put a weapon in safe or lock box would inhibit me from protecting myself in the event someone did break in while my family or I are home. Pretty sure these criminals that intend harm are not going to knock or give me time to get my firearm out of my safe. You are putting a target on law abiding citizens with this insane requirement. Then, what happens if a law abiding citizen does not comply? Will there be an investigation into why they were able to access their weapon so quickly to protect themselves, and now, by saving their own lives they are going to be prosecuted?

This bill as introduced into the Senate would not prevent gun violence, but make law abiding citizens victims and targets for criminals. It will take away our right, and century old family tradition, to hunt for food for our families, thus effecting Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's revenue. It will take away family activities such as trap and varmint shooting while teaching the next generation gun safety and proper use of a firearm. It will take away the right of a United States Soldier to purchase a firearm in the State of Oregon, but they can carry a fully automatic weapon and put their life on the line for your freedom. It will take away the right of a rancher to protect their stock causing financial harm in Oregon's Agriculture Industry. It will take away our rights to protect our families and loved ones from the very criminals that will not and do not obey these laws. And it will penalize law abiding citizens for owning something that was passed down from their great grand fathers and is a family heirloom.

This bill is over the top and violate every citizen's 2nd Amendment right in the Constitution of the United States of America that our right to bear arms will NOT be infringed. In order to purchase any firearm, one currently has to pass a criminal background check for every weapon they buy. To have a concealed handgun permit also requires a criminal background check. Some of these checks go through rather quickly and some are held up for investigation. What is the percentage of illegally owned guns versus legally owned guns that are involved in gun violence? I think you will be surprised, or already know, that legal gun owners are not the ones conducting mass shootings or person to person violence such as gang shootings. Those gun owners never went to a store and got a criminal background check. They never went to the Sheriff's office and completed the application for a concealed handgun permit. They bought these guns off the street through the black market. Guns are not your problem, availability of illegal weapons and the lack of value for human life are your problems. Don't punish law abiding citizens and make them criminals because you, as lawmakers can't figure out how to get the illegal guns out of the hands of criminals. These gun control bills are a farce and political propoganda to make it look like law makers are trying to fix gun violence, yet all these bills do are make the law-abiding people you represent criminals and victims. Look at how strict gun control laws have worked in Chicago, Illinois. Gangs are out of control, or rather in control of the entire city. Gun violence in the "Gun Free" zone of Chicago has increased by 800% since 2013, 540 people were murdered in 2018. In the month and half of 2019 there have already been 25 people killed by guns in Chicago.

In summary, this bill will not cure our problems of violence, they will cause more violence and create more innocent lives lost. It will take away rights and traditions of law-abiding citizens in which you represent. We need to find a way to fix people, not blame inanimate objects!

Sincerely,

Teresa Rodriguez
Proud citizen of Oregon and the United States of America