

Testimony in Opposition to SB 978 by James Wilson of St. Helens, Oregon

I attended the hearing Tuesday in Salem for Senate Bill 978. I signed up to testify for the opposition but since there were about 200 wanting to testify there was not enough time for all of us. So here are my comments concerning this bill.

Proposed restrictions on concealed carry destroy the law by making it impossible for a CHL holder to leave home without risking breaking the law by crossing an increasing number of arbitrary and invisible boundaries. This proposal is particularly egregious because concealed carry is the single most effective law to achieve equality for women ever passed.

At 18 our youth sign up for Selective Service to defend our nation if necessary. Anything that prevents them from becoming proficient with firearms lessens the odds that they will survive combat. Which is exactly what is proposed in this bill.

The untraceable gun may be that single shot 410/22 in a corner of your gun safe your dad gave you when you took the NRA gun safety course when you were 9 or 10. Guns made before 1965 did not all have serial numbers. The BATFE has specific rules for so-called ghost guns. You must get a \$200 tax stamp and serialize them to be able to transfer one to another person. I have never heard of a weapon made from an 80% receiver used in a crime, and it surely would have been front page news. No criminal is going to put in the effort it takes to build a gun when they can buy what they want from one of the Cartels. Criminals have never obeyed gun laws. Any restrictions you add will only handicap law abiding citizens ability to defend themselves.

If you want to make people liable for a crime someone else commits with a stolen or purchased gun, how is that different from doing the same for a stolen car that is not booted or sold with no boot? The Oregon Health Authority could not build a working website. How are they going to oversee cable lock compliance?

Anyone considering voting for this bill should be required to spend a few days in the gun-free zone Maduro turned Venezuela into by confiscating firearms from citizens. Be sure to take plenty of food, because they have already had to eat their pets and zoo animals. And they have had to watch the sick die in hospitals without medicine or power. Their only recourse now is to throw rocks at Maduro's soldiers.

Please stop this attack on the US and Oregon Constitutions that you swear an oath to defend. Defenders of this bill say it will protect children, but their own survey found that a majority of gun owners already have gun safes and send their children to NRA gun safety courses. Criminals often do not do these things, and criminals do not care what gun laws you pass.

Defenders also say the time to remove the trigger lock will stop some suicides. Considering suicide as gun violence is a controversial subject. I lost a son-in-law to suicide by gun. He found that he had a hereditary brain disease that inevitably led to insanity. He prepared for months, even arranging business trips to say goodbye to family members in several states (we did not know what was happening, of course). The point is, he is not the only person who would have

taken that action to avoid the financial ruin years of institutional care would have wrought, not to mention the certain loss of his mental capacity. Please oppose Senate Bill 978

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