

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

As I listened to the testimony from all Oregonians on Tuesday, April 2nd, there were several recurring ideas in support of Oregon Senate Bill 978. These ideas were based on emotions and **false claims** that Oregonians, mainly children, will be safer with the passage of this bill.

The sections of safe storage, regulation of firearms in public places, or undetectable/untraceable firearms will not make Oregonians safer or deter crime. To prosecute someone for these laws it will be due to a person breaking other existing laws. This bill also violates the second amendment of the US Constitution. See District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008).

I understand the intent of safe storage in the bill is to prevent unlawful transfer of firearms. Gun safes and simple trigger locks are only time deterrents to criminals. Existing laws are being broken for the unlawful transfer to take place. Another law will not help here.

The safe storage law cannot be applied to all Oregonians as there are many variables to consider. Oregonians deserve the right to self defense and should be free to store a firearm according to their choosing.

Gun owners with children in the home do need to have their firearms safely stored. This is common sense. If a firearm is not safely stored the gun owner is already committing a crime of child endangerment. We don't need another law as existing laws are in place.

Another common reason for support of SB 978 is to prevent suicides. Many testified that firearms should not be sold to those under age 21 due to impulsive choices by adolescents and the safe storage of the firearms will prevent youth suicides. The Firearm Fatalities in Oregon study performed by the Oregon Health Authority (Updated July 13, 2016: https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/INJURYFATALITYDATA/Documents/Fact%20Sheets/firearms_2016v07132016.pdf) does show the majority of firearm deaths, 83%, are by suicide. The study also showed those aged 65 or older were most at risk of death by firearm suicide. Firearm storage has no impact on this age group. The real issue here is suicide. Note the weapons used in firearm fatalities were handguns (74%), rifles (15%), and shotguns (11%). Federal law bans persons under age 21 from purchasing a handgun. This bill must not approve of discrimination and focus on the real issue of preventing suicide.

The more laws created will result in more people becoming criminals. Allowing a local authority to regulate firearms in public buildings creates an extra burden to CHL holders to plan their routes and limits their right to self protection. If the firearm is concealed, there is no way to identify someone that is carrying. There is no reason for this to be included in the bill. Stripping a group of their rights is not the right approach.

The section of the bill related to "Undetectable and Untraceable Firearms" is overly broad. At what point do raw materials start becoming "unfinished frames or receivers"? Finishing of receivers is a hobby for some people. There are tools and equipment that must be acquired to finish out a receiver or create a firearm. This also applies to 3D printing of firearms. There are far easier methods for criminals to obtain firearms than creating their own.

Since this is a hobby, there are many receivers finished without serial numbers. There are also many firearms manufactured before 1968 without serial numbers. Federal law already states that a serial number must be applied to a firearm prior to transfer to another individual. This bill continues to turn negatively impact law abiding Oregonians without solving any issues.

In consideration of the testimony above, I strongly urge you to vote no on SB 978.

Kindest regards,

Chris Schultz