

From: [John Gray](#)
To: [SJUD Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 978 Feedback
Date: Friday, March 29, 2019 9:11:03 PM

Dear Legislators,

I am a 70 year old fifth generation Oregonian, rural resident, veteran and widower.

There is no firearm emergency in Oregon. Declaring such an emergency is a thinly disguised effort to bypass citizen outrage and referenda. The annual leading cause of death in Oregon from all causes is abortion, which stands at 8,218. Next is Alzheimer's at 1,278, followed by coronary heart disease at 1164, lung disease 1,071, lung cancer 940, hypertension 502, falls 386, pancreatic cancer 310, pneumonia/influenza 283.

There were a total of 113 homicides in 2018, a decline of 11%. 58 of those homicides involved firearms; 2 involved rifles or shotguns. There were 498 traffic deaths by comparison. Suicide claimed 762 Oregon lives in 2017. Oregon's suicide rate per 100,000 is 17.7; by firearm 9 per 100,000. That is slightly higher than the national average, but does not constitute an emergency in the state.

What will SB 978 do to change these statistics?

- 1) Gun dealers can decide not to sell guns to perfectly legal buyers. Zero impact on crime or suicide, denied constitutional right.
- 2) Mandatory locking up of all firearms. Might prevent a few suicides, but will absolutely prevent timely response in a life threatening self defense emergency, and it is a violation of my constitutional right to keep and bear arms..
- 3) It is worth noting that the 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms is an individual right that flows from individual liberty: the right to protect myself and my loved ones from harm, and to protect the United States against government tyranny. SB 978 comes very close to crossing that line to tyranny.
- 4) Hold gun owners responsible for crimes committed with guns stolen from them. Surely you jest!!! That is like charging me with a crime because someone stole my car and killed somebody in an accident! I will have committed no crime, but be held liable for a crime I did not commit - that absolutely tramples the US Constitution.
- 5) Treating part of a gun as a functioning firearm because it is undetectable. Who things these things up????
- 6) Allow declaration of "gun free zones" by cities, counties, msds, airports, schools, colleges and universities. 80% of historical mass shootings have occurred in "gun free" zones. "Gun Free" zones are an open invitation to any crazy intent on committing mayhem to do so where there is likely to be the least resistance. There is a reason 80% of mass shootings happen in those zones. It ignores that fact that a million or more crimes are stopped in this country annually by legally armed citizens. And many more lives are saved by an armed citizen stopping a shooter before he can kill more innocent people. If the Oregon legislature actually passes this into law, the blood of many innocent people will be on your hands.
- 7) Increase the costs of obtaining a CHL and ban CHL holders with firearms from airports. CHL holders are the least likely citizens to commit crimes of the entire population. More crimes are committed by law enforcement officers than by CHL holders. It is clear that what is driving this has nothing to do with safety or preventing crime, it is simply a political attack

on legally armed citizens who are trying to protect themselves and others.

Frankly, given that we now have a democrat super-majority in the Oregon legislature, I suspect that you will blithely pass this monstrosity into law. I can absolutely assure you that if you do, there will be hundreds of thousands of Oregonians who will simply not comply with the law, as has recently happened in Maryland, New York and New Jersey.

Thank you for the opportunity to object in writing.

John Gray
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Dear Legislators,

Having done some recent research on the US Supreme Court District of Columbia versus Heller and subsequent affirmations, any action that prevents a citizen from defending themselves in their home is a violation of that citizen's 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms. The decision specifically included the requirement for firearms to be locked at home. It was subsequently decided in McDonald versus Chicago that the Heller decision also applies to the states.

Whether or not you agree with those decisions, they are the law of the land, and you are bound by oath to uphold them.

Please accordingly vote No on SB978

Thank you.

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