

I urge you to oppose this poorly conceived and worded bill. The most obvious failings of this bill include:

- The stipulation worded “trigger or cable lock that meets or exceeds the minimum specifications established by the Oregon Health Authority” ignores the fact that Oregon does not have the power to drive the market for design, manufacture, and marketing of trigger or cable locks. The end result of this naïve stipulation could leave Oregonians without a legal means of compliance.
- The stipulation worded “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” ignores the existence of standard shop/home tools which may be used to remove a lock. In addition, the wording ignores that the way an unauthorized person may know of the existence/location of a firearm will also allow an unauthorized person to know the location of a lock key.

While likely well intended, the result of a yes vote on this bill will be the requirement that firearms be locked and secured when not on the person or under direct control of the person. This requirement will render such firearms useless in a self-defense situation, such as a home invasion. Considering the following leads to an undeniable conclusion that HB 4005 is misleading, inaccurate, irresponsible, and dishonest.

Crime statistics show that violent encounters are "over" generally within 10 seconds, and two minutes on average (<http://assaultprevention.org/facts/>). This fact makes a locked and secured firearm useless for self-defense. The result of a yes vote on this bill will cause firearm owners to be defenseless in the event of a violent encounter.

The United States Bureau of Justice published a Special Report entitled Victimization During Household Burglary (<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/vdhhb.pdf>). That report noted 266,560 household members, nation-wide, became victims of violence in the estimated average 3.7 million home burglaries each year. The result of a yes vote on this bill will be to expose tens of thousands of Oregon household members (the Oregon portion of the 266,560 household members nation-wide who were victims) to home invasion violence with no effective means to defend themselves, except to be wearing their firearm.

The Centers for Disease Control statistics (<https://webappa.cdc.gov/cgi-bin/broker.exe>) show that approximately 20,000 people per year are unintentionally injured by a firearm. The number of people unintentionally injured by a firearm is less than ten percent of the number of people injured during home invasions. The “whereas” section of this bill implies it will help reduce accidental child injury and death, and will hold irresponsible owners responsible for unsafe storage. The result of a yes vote on this bill will be to place more than ten times as many people in danger of injury than it could possibly protect from injury, all while penalizing innocent people for the actions of criminals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this misleading, inaccurate, irresponsible and dishonest bill.

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