

Please enter the following comments for Public Hearing consideration of House Bill 4005.

The authors of house bill 4005 justify its purpose largely based on two perspectives: a single tragic incident going back years ago and suicide rates of children. While both of these reasons are emotionally taxing, they are objectively debatable because they are based on an anomaly and incomplete information which should invalidate the legitimacy and constitutionality of the bill.

Facts:

Whereas the suicide rate in all of the US has risen at a rate similar to Oregon (National Center for Health Statistics Data Brief No. 330, November 2018 and Oregon Health Authority US Suicide Rates by State); and

Whereas children ages 10-18 are the lowest sector of the population to commit suicide (Oregon Health Authority, October 25, 2019); and

Whereas gun theft is more likely to occur at a gun dealer than from a private resident (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives data and statistics); and

Whereas "SECTION 4. (1) A person transferring a firearm shall transfer the firearm: (a) With an engaged trigger lock or cable lock that meets or exceeds minimum specifications..." is in direct violation of the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution and right to bear arms, whether open or legally concealed; and

Whereas "the lack of safe storage law in Oregon contributed to more than 22,000 firearms being lost or stolen" and "two-thirds of all school shootings in the United States...would have been prevented if the firearms used had been secured and safely stored" and "simple common-sense action including safely storing and transferring firearms (and) promptly reporting to law enforcement officials the loss or theft of firearms...would prevent many deaths and injuries in Oregon" are all subjective and unsubstantiated statements; and

Whereas an individual should not be found guilty and determined to be a criminal without evidence proving intent, accessory, engagement or other level of participation in breaking a law; and

Whereas the nature of criminals is to not follow the law; and

Whereas "everyone has the right to be free from gun violence" but everybody, regardless of age, should also have the right and effective means to protect and defend themselves if a criminal threatens or inflicts violence upon them;

Now, therefore, house bill 4005 should be immediately removed from consideration for being unconstitutional, statistically erroneous and subjectively biased.

Melissa Craig, Oregon Resident.