

Chad Kernutt
Resident Albany, Oregon
Testimony for HB 4005

Dear Oregon Legislatures,

My name is Chad Kernutt and I speak to you today as a concerned citizen and urge you to vote NO on HB-4005. I am a resident of Albany, Oregon, I am a veteran of the U.S. Army and fought in the Iraq War, I am a husband and father of three children and I love my family very much, they are my world. Most importantly I am a free man. I take very serious my individual rights that were given to me not only by my God but my Constitution and I consider myself very fortunate to be a citizen of this great nation. But there are things happening lately that are shaking me straight down to the core and I will no longer stay silent. The anti-second amendment/gun control elements in society with their very loud voices, bullying tactics, and big bucks from Michael Bloomberg have been influencing congress at the state and national levels and a lot of you in Oregon's senate and house of representatives have forgotten the majority of your constituents and the oath you took to the Oregon and U.S. Constitutions. I disagree with every bill that's been brought forward having to do with guns with the exception of the reciprocity bill because having armed responsible citizens who want to protect themselves, their family, and other citizens should be encouraged and not discouraged to carry everywhere they go. I see a lot of problematic and unconstitutional gun control bills be proposed right now but my biggest concern at this time is HB-4005 telling me how to store my weapons in my own house turning our homes into gun-free zones during the first 1-2 minutes of a crime being committed which does nothing but make people soft targets and defenseless against those who are not going to follow your laws no matter how many you come up with, they're called criminals for a reason. I depend on my second amendment rights as does my wife to keep us and are children safe. That means carrying are concealed self-defense weapons in all public places and having them readily available for our defense at home.

Let's talk about some numbers. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) conducted a study of guns used in self-defense and based on the results found that guns were used defensively by victims about 3.6 times as often as they were used offensively by criminals. The average that guns were used in situations of self-defense over a 10 year period checked in at 2.46 million instances a year. The numbers are in for 2018 and the national average police response in a city for a high priority call is 5.7-11.1 minutes. That's a lot of time when you're going up against a bad guy with a gun. The average mass shooting is done within 3 minutes. That means that whatever is unfolding having to do with a bad guy who is armed is going to be over and done with by time the police show up. Whatever bad intentions and bad will that a criminal had in mind will have already been carried out and police will show up looking for the bad guy and trying to figure out what happened. Or you can arm yourself and always be prepared to defend yourself and those closest to you as well as those who cannot defend themselves. Depending on what you consider news and if you're watching or reading from a biased network with an agenda or not than you may or may not know that all over America good guys with guns are constantly stopping bad guys with guns and saving a lot of people from becoming victims which they would have been due to law enforcement not being there. Mass shooters and criminal minded people like soft targets, they like easy victims and will choose to target places where they don't expect resistance. Gun-free zones and residences where they don't expect to encounter an armed and ready home owner are these exact places that criminals look for. What do those of you lawmakers think will happen to a homeowner when because of gun control laws gun owners have trigger locks on their weapons or they are locked up in a safe of some sort during the exact moment of a break in? Unless you happen to be right next to your gun during that exact moment and for a trigger lock be next to your gun with key in hand, you're going to be in real trouble. And because of these gun laws, if passed, they will render a law-abiding gun owner with a self-defense weapon a victim by circumstance. A responsible gun owner teaches their children weapons safety and their children will grow up respecting guns as tools and a means of self-defense where you don't play with a gun and you don't point it at something you don't intend to shoot. That's the way I was raised and that's the way most kids with responsible gun owning parents are raised. We already have laws on the books for parents who are negligent gun owners. My daddy had 3 sayings that I think would fit all sides of the equation with these gun laws that keep being proposed. 1. You can't fix stupid. 2. You have to stand for something or you will fall for anything. 3. Never miss a good opportunity to shut up when you know you're wrong. Your new proposed gun law will do nothing to stop criminals and stupid irresponsible people, it will just make victims and criminals out of responsible law-

abiding gun owning citizens who just want to protect themselves and their families from the evils of this world. You can't defend yourself when the second you're under attack your very means to self-defense is locked up and inaccessible to you in time to stop the threat.

I see every day the types of people heading into our prisons as well as the types of people being released back onto our streets and in most cases when it comes to violent offenders/predators, those who have no problem inflicting harm on others (Whether it's with rape, robbery, murder, or in the case of gang affiliated people continuing their gang lifestyle and everything that goes with it.), these types of people largely will not be rehabilitated and have a very high rate of recidivism and when released back into the community go on to continue their path of praying on law abiding citizens. To make it more difficult for innocent law-abiding civilians to defend themselves against these types of evil predators doesn't make any sense.

I would like to provide 3 examples today of why it's important not to handicap/disarm law abiding citizens that are true stories from my life. When I was 13 years old and stayed home sick from school one day, a burglar broke in through our back door and entered the house. All of my fathers' guns were in a safe in the garage with the exception of one rifle and one loaded magazine that my father kept in the house not locked up and readily accessible for instant home and self-defense. My father was a responsible gun owner and parent and had trained me on how to properly use and respect guns. When this criminal broke into our house he was between me and the only route down to the door to the garage, I ran to my fathers room and I grabbed my fathers 30-06 hunting rifle from his closet and did exactly as I was taught. I put the magazine in and met the intruder chambering a round as he walked into my parents' bedroom. The intruder did a 180 degree turn and ran back out of the house. Who knows what would have happened that day if a trigger lock was on the rifle, or it was separated from the ammunition, or it was in the safe in the garage with the other weapons that I wouldn't have had access too? Maybe this intruder after I had seen his face and seeing a defenseless child would have done me harm, maybe not. Many criminals out there who rob people do harm their victims. I was fortunate that I was not put into a situation where I had to find out due to very dangerous gun laws that would have put my life at risk and made criminals out of my parents for teaching me how to defend myself when access to the safe and the exits in a different part of the house between me and the criminal wasn't an option.

My last 2 examples are from 4 years ago before I moved out of a rough part of Salem. My neighbors next door had family members living in the house who belonged to the notorious Surenos Hispanic gang and they caused a lot of problems in our neighborhood. Shortly after we reported them to the authorities for throwing a house party that went until 3:00am in the morning where people were parking their rigs on our front yard and throwing beer cans and bottles into our back yard, they proceeded to start harassing us on a consistent basis cursing at us in front of our children and continuing to throw glass beer bottles in our back yard so they would shatter leaving glass everywhere where are children and dog would walk. One day they pulled up to the front of our house when I was weeding and one of the male members threatened to assault me while walking through my front yard toward me with balled up fist's. I told him that I was armed and to turn around and get back in his car and leave us alone. He got in his car and left. Later in the same month with the same neighbors, I was mowing my lawn and had put a yard debris bin out in the road directly between both my car and their car which was 3 feet away from the yard debris bin and also right in front of my house, a female came out of the house accusing me of touching their car hurling profanities at me and threatening that her boyfriend would take care of me for messing with their car even though I had never touched it. A male then came out of the house and approached me pulling a knife on me threatening to kill me while advancing toward me and I again notified them that I was armed, and I was now calling the police and they turned around and went back into their house. The Marion County Sheriff's Office said they couldn't do anything about it because he never stepped foot onto our property. I wasn't even armed with my concealed carry during these last 2 events, but the situations could have turned out very differently if I had not proclaimed to have my concealed carry on me to protect myself and my family. If these criminal minded neighbors of mine had carried on with their assaultive intent and with me not being armed at the time with my concealed carry pistol who knows what could have happened. How much longer would it have taken me to get to my locked-up weapons to protect myself? How much longer would it have taken my wife to get to our locked-up weapons to protect me or herself and the kids had they hurt me, or they advanced into the house after harming me?

For decades the democrats have pushed anti-gun legislation with the lie that each proposal will be the death nail to violent crime committed with firearms. Of course, we've all heard this mantra for decades. And for decades we've seen every anti-gun law that has passed fail to put a dent in crime, only to be followed by a new proposal that the gun-ban extremists insist will get the job done...this time. Supporters of the Second Amendment have always known that gun control laws have a fatal flaw; criminals don't obey the law. They ignore or circumvent the new laws just as readily as they ignore or circumvent the old ones. If they are willing to commit robbery, why would they not also be willing to commit armed robbery? If they are willing to commit assault, why would they not be willing to commit assault with a deadly weapon? And if they are willing to commit homicide, again, why would they not be willing to commit homicide using a firearm? One more law will not stop a violent criminal from being a violent criminal.

All of these anti-2nd amendment gun bills that continue to be pushed by Oregon liberals are an infringement on my constitutional rights granted to me by both the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions and I take very serious issue with them and the people trying to push them. I am worried by the encroachment that some of those in government are trying to bring forth on our rights. I hope my words do not fall on deaf ears for the sake of my family and loved ones and all of those innocent law-abiding citizens out there who have done nothing to deserve our Oregon state government putting them in this kind of position. I urge you all to think about the safety of your fellow Oregonians as well as their constitutional rights and vote NO on HB-4005. Thank you.