

This proposed bill has so many things wrong with it that I will not attempt to enumerate all of them. A few of the outstanding ones include.

1. It causes the victim of a crime (firearm theft) to be penalized for that crime
2. It presupposes that any anti-theft device approved by the Oregon Health Authority cannot be readily defeated, while in fact any such device can be defeated by common tools such as a drill and bit, bolt cutters, abrasive cutoff tools, etc....and that individuals who attempt to steal such weapons will be deterred by such an anti-theft device. (Were I so inclined, I'd simply steal the weapon with the device in place, take it to a secure location, and remove with one of the afore mentioned tools, the device.). Further, trigger locks can be defeated by simply cutting off the trigger guard, a weapon is perfectly functional without the guard, albeit more unsafe (probably not a concern to a thief)
3. It places the burden of proof on the owner of the firearm to prove that the weapon was properly secured, and that the device was subsequently defeated. In the scenario under #2 above this would be impossible.
4. Some lever action rifles and shotguns cannot be secured by a trigger lock OR a cable lock, because opening the action releases the trigger lock, and a cable cannot be threaded through the action. This will mean that they will need to be transported in some form of a locked container, despite a vehicle being potentially such a locked container. It's hard to even visualize what that container might be. A chain through the lever would secure the weapon in place but not defeat it's functionality if it were the weapon of choice for someone committing suicide.
5. Suicide is a mental health issue which this bill purports to be caused by access to firearms, whilst ignoring that tall places, poisons, ropes, and sharp tools such as knives and razor blades, and other devices (driving a car into an immovable object at high speed, threatening a police officer in such a way that the officer is forced to use his weapon) are just as readily available. Additionally, many suicides are committed by a person who legally owns the firearm used, in which case "safe" storage is a mute point.

Safe firearm storage is the responsibility of the owner, not the state.

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