

I am writing in opposition to HB 4005, which suffers from the same fatal flaws as proposals from past years (including intolerance, making our fellow Oregonians less safe, enshrining intrusive discrimination into Oregon law, and not sufficiently respecting the diversity of Oregonian interests in the protection of themselves and others).

Governmental regulation of what an Oregonian does within the confines of his or her home should not be instituted lightly. Not only is this bill demanding action within the sanctity of our own homes, cars, and other private areas that is contrary to legitimate interests (protection of oneself and one's family), but it attempts to implement "strict" liability. Implementation of strict liability in the law is rare. Usually, we would see the criminal actions of someone else (including a thief or armed robber) as an intervening event that would relieve the victim of liability. The effect of this bill would be to victimize the actual crime victim twice, first by the criminal during the actual crime, and secondly by you making the victim strictly liable for the actions of someone who deliberately disregarded criminal laws in the first place.

Making someone liable for 2 years after the criminal is absurd. Even if you legitimately thought that strict liability was a good idea, a 2-year window is unreasonable on its face. Both State and Federal laws are supposed to be based on the idea of rationality and reasonableness, so someone can accurately predict the consequences if they are in violation. No one (not you or any other governmental official) can accurately predict what will happen with a stolen firearm during a 2-year period. Why then would you make a private citizen strictly liable for events that no one can reasonably foresee?

You should use your energy and efforts to protect the sanctity of our homes, not violate it in such a draconian manner. Make criminal laws for the theft and misuse of firearms stronger and more obvious (such as

enforced, mandatory minimums for Felons in Possession and those possessing or using stolen firearms), but please do not focus your energies on penalizing crime victims. You were elected to be public servants, and you are not serving the interests of Oregonians by making them "strictly" liable for the criminal acts of another person.

Sincerely,

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