

February 5, 2020

Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

As a retired peace officer and former crime victim, I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to HB 4005. This bill is one of the most pro-criminal, anti-victim pieces of legislation ever to come out of this legislature! If your goals are to endanger citizens, punish crime victims and reward criminals, then you've succeeded.

This bill endangers citizens: Requiring law-abiding citizens to keep our means of protection rendered useless in the privacy of our own homes leaves our families defenseless against violent attack. There are currently 5 registered sexual predators in my immediate area. Being prepared with a fully-functioning, lawfully owned firearm ensures that I can successfully defend myself and family from violent felons.

HB 4005 punishes crime victims: Victims of robbery, home invasion or theft have been traumatized enough and your solution is to hold THEM liable for crimes committed using their stolen property? If an auto thief hit someone with a stolen car would you arrest that victim too?

HB 4005 does nothing to increase penalties for ACTUAL criminals who steal firearms or use them in the commission of other crimes. In fact, last year this legislature passed several bills that REDUCE penalties for a variety of violent crimes! Those legislative actions have made it more important than EVER for law-abiding citizens to retain the ability to protect ourselves.

When will you learn that targeting victims and coddling criminals does not reduce crime? This bill is just the latest example of out-of-touch urban legislators waging war on the the rest of the state. When seconds count, police are minutes or hours away, and nowhere is that more true than in our rural communities. By passing this pro-criminal, anti-victim bill, you will be turning law-abiding Oregonians across the state into sitting ducks!! NO on HB 4005.

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