

Chairperson Prusak and committee members:

The fundamental question every legislator should ask themselves before voting on ANY bill is: "Is this bill Constitutional?" HB 2510 clearly is not. The Heller decision in 2008 reads, in part: "The handgun ban and the trigger-lock requirement (as applied to self-defense) violate the Second Amendment." This, in itself, is enough reason for you to summarily reject this bill. To do otherwise is to violate your sworn oath to The Constitution.

Furthermore, gun storage is not a healthcare issue. This is an issue for the judicial committee, and legislating it under the umbrella of this committee is disingenuous to put it politely. This is just another thinly-veiled, incremental step toward the elimination of firearms from our society pushed by the noisy cult of hoplophobics, represented chiefly by Bloomberg-coached mad mothers and indoctrinated high school students. I have read the testimony for this hearing, and if you have, too, you've seen a good number of them are simply word for word cut and pastes from someone else; no doubt originally cut and pasted from well known crib notes supplied by East Coast antigun organizations. The passion these supporters attempt to convey would be a lot more convincing if they took the trouble to at LEAST appear to have studied the issue a bit, then put their testimony into their own words, rather than simply parroting a hired think tank consultant. Laziness is no substitute for knowledge.

There are many households in our state in which no children are present. This law would unfairly restrict these childless residents in the furtherance of their own defense. Oregon already provides penalties for reckless endangerment, under which an adult found grossly negligent in the storage of a firearm can be prosecuted for a felony. There is no need to pass yet another law under the guise of preventing teenage suicide and toddler death. Emotional arguments belong in melodramas; they have no legitimate place in gun control legislation.

If you truly wish to reduce teen, (and toddler) AND adult deaths from firearms in Oregon, I suggest you figure out a way to seize the (illegal) weapons possessed (and used) by criminals in North Portland, where most teen gunshot deaths occur in our state. Then, incarcerate those criminals for a long, long time. They're already breaking gun laws with impunity. Anyone equipped with the power of logic will reason that they aren't going to obey a new one.

In closing, if you truly have such a fear of guns that you think they should be illegal in our state, then draft legislation that says so in plain English and stop trying to dress them up in pretty little party dresses and selling them as "safety measures."

Respectfully,

Bill S. May