

For the record, my name is Patrick Iler from Central Point.

I thank the Chair and committee members for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I am strongly opposed to HB2510.

For the sake of brevity, I will only address one aspect of the bill today. In the Whereases the bill states on line 17;

Whereas a proven barrier to the impulse to commit suicide is securing firearms with a lock or storing firearms in locked containers; and...

The above language included in the bill is erroneous and deceptive as the idea of impulse suicide is not validated to the degree that warrants this legislation. This comment is substantiated in an article titled Impulsivity and Suicide Risk: Review and Clinical Implications written by E. David Klonsky, PhD and Alexis M. May, MA in the Psychiatric Times, Vol 32 No 8, Volume 32, Issue 8...

As quoted;

"Taken together, studies indicate 2 critical limitations of current knowledge. First, when it comes to characterizing impulsivity in suicide, there is a disconnect between clinical guidelines and research. The way impulsivity is described in lists of suicide risk factors and warning signs is not supported-and is in some cases disputed-by empirical research. Second, the field continues to struggle to understand the role impulsivity plays in influencing the likelihood and nature of suicide attempts, as well as how to best understand suicide and suicide risk."

I will add my own story to this. I have 3 children. I used to have 4. My second daughter took her own life when she was in her 30s a few years ago. At the time she did so, she owned a 40 caliber M&P Shield semi-automatic pistol. However, she did not take her life with the pistol. She committed suicide through asphyxiation. Although I don't fully understand the process she used, what I do understand is that it is much more complicated and involved than shooting yourself with a firearm. It took careful planning, obtaining the right equipment, and then completing the process in the correct way to obtain the desired results. Prior to Valerie taking her life, there was plenty of indicators that she was struggling. She was already receiving psychiatric care and was on medication. As her father all I could do is be there for her and pray that she was able to with help, work through her issues. This story is obviously much longer and complicated and is beyond this testimony.

So you see, I know from personal experience the idea of impulse suicide is a really a myth. If you hear someone say regarding loosing someone they love to suicide, "I was completely taken by surprise" is either a liar or they didn't know their loved one as they say they did.

The idea that this legislation would have any significant impact on the problems it purports to address is clearly preposterous. And even if it did have some small impact, it would certainly be offset by the lives lost in hampering the ability of law-abiding citizens to be able to have quick access to their firearm(s) to protect their loved ones and themselves, if the unfortunate need should arise.

As you can imagine, it has been extremely difficult to relay this personal story to you. But I feel it was important to do so to do what I can to prevent this bill from passing out of committee.

There are many other good reasons to reject this legislation and I respectfully ask the committee to reject the bill as it clearly will not achieve the stated goals and takes the eye and attention off real solutions to address the problems of gun violence.

Thank you.

Patrick Iler
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