

Thank you for considering my comments AGAINST proposed house bill 2510 as resubmitted again this session. There is little to be added to many of the opposing statements already submitted but please consider the following: SHOULD someone choose to break in to my secured residence or my secured vehicle and choose to steal items my family has worked hard to attain, that is on them. We are the victims. We are not the criminals. Furthermore, the idea of 'strict liability' is excessive penalty and very open ended to the point it could cause crisis or disaster to a victim; furthermore, it provides a springboard and basis of support for civil actions against victims. Secured is secured and if people who choose to own firearms secure them secondarily within their secured residence – that would be their right, their choice and their conscience. The same thieves can steal those items just as well – that family remains the victim. During a time when vocal residents and legislators of this state have created an open invitation to drug addicted individuals through legalization of drugs and their possession, they have invited the associated criminal elements to our community along with them. Those same Oregonians have also supported and also defunded our dedicated law enforcement groups who enforce the abundance of gun laws that exist in this state. Address the result of these actions before criminalizing victims.

SIMILARLY, when people choose to have children, those individuals need to be all in and fully engaged. That includes knowing what your child is up to, where and when; this includes their mental state. There are numerous systems in place that assist to this end but the fact is the child is the responsibility of the parent. We as a community support those children and pay for their basic education and well-being but the protection and rearing remain on the parent. We expect that anything which might harm those children is addressed by the parents – if that includes using locks provided with every firearm purchase, that is up to the family and their individual situation. It is a parent's responsibility to know and to be engaged. Responsible parenting around firearms includes education and access, secondarily securing will not alter that access. Someone else's child is not my fault. My family is not responsible or criminally liable due to someone else's irresponsible parenting. Perhaps as a society we should begin discussion about legislating who can and cannot have children?

MEDICAL COMMUNITY representatives have taken to supporting this legislation; those individuals cannot rightly support the bill as an industry. The medical profession and industry are paid to heal patients, physically as well as mentally. They are not in place to govern others. Tragic as they may be, if you examined most all injury reports, a significantly high number are preventable. Yet there is very little other legislation for human error or mistakes beyond existing negligence and endangerment laws. How about focusing support on enforcement of existing laws for protection?

Finally, based on this legislation and HB 554, provisions need to be included for provisions to secure firearms by entities which limit access on their property. Be assured with this legislation, should that secured firearm be stolen or otherwise impacted, that property owner would be liable. This proposal is too broadly worded and potentially encompasses too wide-ranging liabilities.

Thank you for considering my comments OPPOSING HB 2510.