

NO on Gun Control NO on SB-554

Dear Oregon Legislators,

My name is Chad Kernutt and I speak to you today as a concerned citizen and urge you to vote NO on SB-554 and every other bad gun control bill being proposed. I am a resident of Albany, Oregon, I am a veteran of the U.S. Army and fought in the Iraq War, I am a husband and father of three children and I love my family very much, they are my world. Most importantly I am a free Christian man. I take very seriously my individual rights that were given to me not only by my God, but my Constitution, and I consider myself very fortunate to be a citizen of this great nation. But there are things happening lately that are shaking me straight down to the core and I will no longer stay silent. The anti-second amendment/gun control elements in society with their very loud voices, bullying tactics, and big bucks from Michael Bloomberg have been influencing congress at the state and national levels and a lot of you in Oregon's senate and house of representatives have forgotten the majority of your constituents and the oath you took to the Oregon and U.S. Constitutions. I disagree with every bill that's been brought forward this session having to do with guns and will continue to have problems with all gun bills brought forward with the exception of a reciprocity bill, because having armed responsible

citizens who want to protect themselves, their family, and other citizens should be encouraged and not discouraged to carry everywhere they go. I see a lot of problematic and unconstitutional gun control bills being proposed right now but my biggest concern at this time is SB-1538 which goes after law abiding gun owners with concealed carry licenses and creates a confusing patchwork of places we can't carry in public which does nothing but make people soft targets and defenseless against those dangerous individuals who are not going to follow your laws no matter how many you come up with, they're called criminals for a reason. I depend on my second amendment rights as does my wife to keep us and our children safe. That means carrying our concealed self-defense weapons in all public places and having them readily available for our defense at home. Let me ask you a serious question that you all need to think very hardy about, why are you going after law abiding gun owners who don't commit crimes and defend themselves and others in public? Actually, here's an even better question, when was the last time a citizen with a concealed carry license in any state ever committed a crime with their gun? Anybody? I have the answer, you WILL NOT find any, because this portion of the population takes their rights, their privileges, and the laws very seriously.

Let's talk about some numbers. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) conducted a study of guns used in self-defense and based on the results found that

guns were used defensively by victims about 3.6 times as often as they were used offensively by criminals. The average that guns were used in situations of self-defense over a 10 year period checked in at 2.46 million instances a year. The numbers are in for 2018 and the national average police response in a city for a high priority call is 5.7-11.1 minutes. That's a lot of time when you're going up against a bad guy with a gun. The average mass shooting is done within 3 minutes. That means that whatever is unfolding having to do with a bad guy who is armed is going to be over and done with by time the police show up. Whatever bad intentions and bad will that a criminal had in mind will have already been carried out and police will show up looking for the bad guy and trying to figure out what happened. Or you can arm yourself and always be prepared to defend yourself and those closest to you as well as those who cannot defend themselves. Depending on what you consider news and if you're watching or reading from a biased network with an agenda or not than you may or may not know that all over America good guys with guns are constantly stopping bad guys with guns and saving a lot of people from becoming victims which they would have been due to law enforcement not being there. Mass shooters and criminal minded people like soft targets, they like easy victims and will choose to target places where they don't expect resistance. Gun-free zones with defenseless citizens and residences where criminals don't expect to encounter an armed and ready

home owner are these exact places that criminals look for. And yet these are the very places some of you anti 2nd amendment people are trying to create for nothing short but the sake of an agenda. What do you think will happen now in the cases where defenseless citizens are encountering evil individuals in public who are meaning to rob, assault, rape, or murder them? Don't forget also that now because of your safe storage bill, the guns of the law-abiding citizens that they should be carrying on their person are now locked up in a mini safe or have a cable lock on them in the vehicle. What do those of you lawmakers think will happen to a homeowner when because of your new gun control laws like safe storage where gun owners have trigger locks on their weapons or they are locked up in a safe of some sort during the exact moment of a break in? Unless you happen to be right next to your gun during that exact moment and for a trigger lock be next to your gun with key in hand, you're going to be in real trouble. And because of these gun laws, if passed, they will render a law-abiding gun owner with a self-defense weapon a victim by circumstance. A responsible gun owner teaches their children weapons safety and their children will grow up respecting guns as tools and a means of self-defense where you don't play with a gun and you don't point it at something you don't intend to shoot. That's the way I was raised and that's the way most kids with responsible gun owning parents are raised. We already have laws on the books for parents who are negligent gun owners.

My daddy had 3 sayings that I think would fit all sides of the equation with these gun laws that keep being proposed. 1. You can't fix stupid. 2. You have to stand for something or you will fall for anything. 3. Never miss a good opportunity to shut up when you know you're wrong. All of your new proposed gun laws will do nothing to stop criminals and stupid irresponsible people, it will just make victims and criminals out of responsible law-abiding gun owning citizens who just want to protect themselves and their families from the evils of this world. You can't defend yourself when the second you're under attack your very means to self-defense is locked up and inaccessible to you in time to stop the threat. For those of you committing this egregious assault on our constitutional and God given rights, you need to get your heads out of your keesters and stop looking out for criminals making it easier for them while simultaneously making victims out of law abiding citizens try to protect themselves, their families, and their fellow citizens!!

I see every day the types of people heading into our prisons as well as the types of people being released back onto our streets and in most cases when it comes to violent offenders/predators, those who have no problem inflicting harm on others (Whether it's with assault, rape, robbery, murder, or in the case of gang affiliated people continuing their gang lifestyle and everything that goes with it.), these types of people largely will not be rehabilitated and have a very high

rate of recidivism and when released back into the community go on to continue their path of praying on law-abiding citizens. To make it more difficult for innocent law-abiding civilians to defend themselves against these types of evil predators doesn't make any sense.

For decades the anti 2nd amendment democrats have pushed anti-gun legislation with the lie that each proposal will be the death nail to violent crime committed with firearms. Of course, we've all heard this mantra for decades. And for decades we've seen every anti-gun law that has passed fail to put a dent in crime, only to be followed by a new proposal that the gun-ban extremists insist will get the job done...this time. Supporters of the Second Amendment have always known that gun control laws have a fatal flaw; criminals don't obey the law. They ignore or circumvent the new laws just as readily as they ignore or circumvent the old ones. If they are willing to commit robbery, why would they not also be willing to commit armed robbery? If they are willing to commit assault, why would they not be willing to commit assault with a deadly weapon? And if they are willing to commit homicide, again, why would they not be willing to commit homicide using a firearm? One more law will not stop a violent criminal from being a violent criminal.

All of these anti 2nd amendment gun bills that continue to be pushed by Oregon liberals are an

infringement on my constitutional rights granted to me by both the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions and I take very serious issue with them and the people trying to push them. I am worried by the encroachment that some of those in government are trying to bring forth on our rights. I hope my words do not fall on deaf ears for the sake of my family and loved ones and all of those innocent law-abiding citizens out there who have done nothing to deserve our Oregon state government putting them in this kind of position. I urge you all to think about the safety of your fellow Oregonians as well as their constitutional rights and vote NO on SB-554. Thank you.

Sincerely, Chad Kernutt
Resident Albany, Oregon
Testimony for SB-554

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