

Submitter: Josh Kulla
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2005

I am an Oregon resident who is tired of measures like this one that attempt to use the recent jump in both violent crime and property crime in the Portland area as an excuse to enact further restrictions on law-abiding Oregonians who are absolutely not the cause of those crime issues. This bill purports to ban "undetectable firearms," some of which do not exist, on the one hand, and others that involved in little to no crime, according to law enforcement officials I have spoken with. No functioning firearms in existence, whether offered for commercial sale or available as parts with which an individual can assemble a completed firearm, consist entirely of non-metal components. Any claim to the contrary is a 1980s science fiction trope of the type employed by gun-banning organizations of that time period when the first commercially available firearms to utilize polymer frames began to appear on the market. So-called "invisible" firearms were a myth then and are a myth now, even with newer technology like 3D printing. Similarly, the existence of so-called "ghost guns" is also a trope invented by would-be gun banners to whip up public hysteria in an attempt to fan the flames of the culture wars. Firearms assembled from parts that also require complicated machining to complete are not the cause of crime in Oregon.

None of these policies has ever been about public safety or reducing violent crime. These and other measures of this type are solely about making legal firearms ownership more difficult, more expensive, more onerous, and more legally perilous. Instead of trying to eliminate human rights, including the right to self-defense, I would suggest that legislators instead devote their time to ensuring that violent criminals are properly prosecuted. In addition, legislators need to double down on a new commitment to properly funding defense attorneys across the state, ensuring that proper mental health care is available for those who need it, making available a massive increase in drug rehabilitation facilities and the staffing to go with that, as well as summoning the political will to remove drug addicts and criminals from the thousands of encampments clogging our public spaces. This will take a years-long commitment to changing the current direction of Oregon politics, but doing so will result in a huge decrease in violent crime, property crime and the resultant suffering of both victims and offenders.

Focus on the important issues at hand, please, and stop attempting to blame all of Oregon's woes on legal firearm owners by backing legislation that will have zero impact on public safety. Thank you.