

Submitter: Josh Kulla
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2006

I urge the Oregon Legislature to reject HB 2006. Unless legislators can produce specific statistics and evidence that show that allowing the legal sale and possession of firearms to those between the ages of 18-20 is a direct cause of violent crime, this bill will do nothing to address the serious public safety issues afflicting our state. My guess is that there is no such evidence to be found. Instead, this is yet another feel-good measure proposed by the segment of the population which has no actual knowledge of or experience with firearms or the shooting sports. This bill would criminalize many activities currently enjoyed safely and legally by families and their children throughout the state. What it would not do is reduce the number of homicides on Portland streets that are the direct result of drug-fueled rivalries enacted by groups that are dueling over the profits of selling fentanyl and methamphetamine to an ever-increasing number of addicts emboldened by the decriminalization of those substances and the resulting free-for-all that has ensued.

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.