

Submitter: Caleb Sale  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2005

Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary, I am writing to voice my strong opposition to HB 2005.

This emotionally charged bill and its argumentation do not have the ability nor the intent to effectively reduce violent crime perpetuated with firearms, homemade, un-serialized or otherwise. It seems the intent of this legislation is to reduce options for ordinary people to secure tools needed for their personal protection, recreation, and collection. Additionally, this country has a long history of homemade firearms going back to the days of its founding, where such firearms were used to secure our freedoms which all sides of the current political spectrum seem to hold dear (until they disagree with it.)

Now that the emotional argument is presented, I would like to state some facts and questions for consideration:

1. Until 1968 (just 55 years ago) serial numbers on firearms were optional. The 1968 Gun control Act required manufacturers to place a serial number on firearms, and those in possession of a firearm with an altered or obliterated serial number are, under this same act, in commission of a felony. This act does not, however, apply marking requirements to non-FFL manufacturers (e.g., firearms made by individuals for their own use.)

2. "Undetectable" and "untraceable" are terms that are often conflated in this conversation. The reality is, firearms tracing is marginally effective at best, with or without serial numbers. If we're worried about a privately made firearm not being detectable by metal detectors, this is an unfounded fear - most, if not all, modern firearms still use many metallic components, including barrels, bolts, and slides on semi-automatic handguns.

3. How does this bill reduce violent crime? People who are committing crimes already have no qualms about continuing to do as they do. Another law will mean nothing to criminals who, by definition, do not follow laws.

4. How does this bill impact the average Oregonian? This bill will only burden the ordinary citizens of our state. By simply passing this bill, we will be making criminals out of thousands of Oregonian citizens.

5. This law, having no grandfather provision for anything privately manufactured

between 1968 and the effective date, would retroactively make many Oregonians guilty of a crime for something that they could have constructed 50 years ago. How does this help with the so called "Ghost Gun epidemic" as some supporters of this, and similar bills, are calling it? Are lawfully manufactured and possessed firearms in the hands of innocent people such an issue that we must make these law abiding citizens criminals simply for owning an inanimate object?

6. If, as a state, we are not prosecuting or holding in custody criminals who have committed violent crimes, why should we make more criminals out of the ordinary citizens of our state?

7. By changing definitions of "Frame" and "Receiver," this bill will create additional regulations and requirements in Oregon not required by the rest of the country, including the requirement for background checks and manufacturer serialization of parts that is not required anywhere else in the country. How will this impact the jobs and livelihoods of those in the firearms sales and manufacturing business in the state of Oregon?

Once again, I must express my extreme opposition to this bill. It will do nothing to reduce crime, violent or otherwise. This bill is an affront to Oregonians creating a punitive punishment against those who have done no wrong for the purpose of political gain.

Sincerely,  
Caleb Sale