

Submitter: Lauren Maerz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2005

Hello,

I strongly oppose HB 2005. I wanted to start by stating this: let's recognize as firearm and non firearm owners and as Oregonians - we all want to limit the number of gun related deaths.

I worry that we are introducing more gun control bills at a time when current laws are not being utilized. Case and point are the astounding number of felon in possession of a firearm cases out of Portland, and the propensity of our DA in Portland to hold less and less perpetrators accountable. The net result of not perusing those cases has been a flood of shooters to operate with impunity on the streets. Murder rates among young black men have skyrocketed yet those laws on the books that are designed to help prevent violent individuals from possessing firearms seem largely ignored. Why?

Firearms should be treated with reverence and respect. They are fascinating to those that collect and shoot them.

The unintended consequence of this bill will make thousands of Oregonians instant criminals with it's passage. These are good, law abiding folks that have built firearms from kits to add to their collection and learn about the inner workings of a gun. People building these kits to then make firearms to sell are breaking federal laws already on the books. Convicted criminals carrying these guns are breaking state laws already on the books.

There are bi-partisan bills that would help with firearms safety in Oregon right now. HB3060 would offer tax credits for purchasing gun safes, encouraging gun safety. I was intrigued enough by the bill that I reached out to the Utah DHHS that implemented something similar. They offered "coupons" which didn't work out as well (was rife with fraud, with one receipt being used 5 times). The tax credit system would be a better workaround to the fraud problem and I'm optimistic it will pass and be successful.

We have all the sticks to stop gun violence on the books right now, it's time to try some carrots and encourage gun safety. Pass HB3060 - Oppose HB2005.

Thank you,
Lauren Maerz
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