

Submitter: D P
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2007

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2005. As firearm and non-firearm owners, and as Oregonians, we all share the desire to reduce the number of gun-related deaths.

However, I am concerned that introducing more gun control bills at this time when current laws are not being fully enforced may not be effective. For example, there have been a large number of cases of felons possessing firearms in Portland, and unfortunately, the DA's office has been holding fewer and fewer perpetrators accountable, resulting in a surge of shootings on the streets. Laws designed to prevent violent individuals from possessing firearms seem to be largely ignored. This has led to an increase in murder rates, especially among young black men.

I believe that firearms should be treated with reverence and respect, and that they can be fascinating to collectors and shooters. However, I am worried that the unintended consequence of this bill would be to turn many law-abiding Oregonians into instant criminals. Many of these individuals have built firearms from kits to add to their collection and to learn about how guns work. Those who build these kits to sell firearms are already breaking federal laws, and convicted criminals carrying these guns are already breaking state laws.

Instead of more sticks to stop gun violence, I think it's time to try some carrots and encourage gun safety. There are bi-partisan bills such as HB3060, which would offer tax credits for purchasing gun safes, that could help with firearms safety in Oregon right now. I have been impressed with the success of similar programs implemented by the Utah DHHS. Although coupon-based systems were rife with fraud, the tax credit system would be a better solution to this problem. I am optimistic that HB3060 will pass and be successful.

In summary, I urge you to oppose HB 2005 and to support bills like HB3060, which promote gun safety in Oregon. Thank you for your attention to this matter.