

Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

As a retired law enforcement officer and former crime victim, I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB348. Months into the legislative session, this bait & switch bill was sprung at the very last minute to deliberately prevent constituents from having a say in the legislative process. It's absolutely shameful!!

Like Measure 114 (currently blocked by the courts for multiple constitutional violations) SB348 will essentially abolish self-defense rights in Oregon for crime victims & law-abiding citizens. By making it more complicated, time-consuming & expensive for single mothers, people of color & the elderly to access effective tools for self-defense (a Constitutional RIGHT), you are subjecting the most vulnerable to further disadvantage. Despite platitudes by politicians, regular people understand that disarming victims will NOT keep them safe from criminals!

It has been disheartening to watch out-of-touch legislators repeatedly vote to defund the police and reduce penalties for violent crime while simultaneously reducing the ability of victims to defend themselves. Passing laws to punish the most responsible among us is counter-productive and outright dangerous! Despite their best efforts, when seconds count the police are minutes or more away. The fact is, WE ARE EACH OUR OWN FIRST RESPONDER.

The vast majority of crime & violence occurs in Portland, yet if this bill passes the entire state will be made to suffer the consequences of one city's pro-crime policies. If you are serious about public safety, RESPECT YOUR LAW-ABIDING CONSTITUENTS and vote NO on SB348! Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Respectfully,  
Lesley Roehr