

Submitter: James OKeefe
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB348

I am strenuously opposed to SB 348 with the proposed amendments in their entirety. This legislative package, if enacted into law, would be a gross violation of the right of the people to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution and most recently affirmed by the United States Supreme Court in their NYSPRA v Bruen decision.

It appears that a number of Oregon Legislators are openly hostile to the 2nd Amendment, just as many Southern Legislators were openly hostile to the equal rights of black Americans. From Reconstruction on, through the Jim Crow era and, finally, in defiance of SCOTUS' Brown v Board of Education, those Southern legislatures put up one racist law after another, only to see them shot down by the courts in turn. In the interim of that 100-year civil rights battle, the victims of those laws had their liberties restricted, their properties taken, and for many of them, their lives ruined or, worse, lost.

The fate that awaits this bill, should it become law, will follow that same arc, but at great danger and monetary expense to the people that you represent. The poor, many of whom live in dangerous, marginalized and under-policed communities, will be among the greatest victims of this law, as they will be unable to afford the "poll tax" mandated by its provisions, and thus unable to defend themselves against the criminals and monsters who prey on the weaker and more vulnerable among them.

Don't be like Gov. George Wallace. Please vote NO on this bill and stand up for the right of the men and women of Oregon to exercise their God-given right of self-defense.

Respectfully submitted,

James O'Keefe, Medford