

Submitter: Don Powers
On Behalf Of: US and State of Oregon Constitution
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB348

Oregon Constitution

Art. I section 27

The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defense of themselves, and the State, but the Military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power.

Art.1 Section 33

Enumeration of rights not exclusive. This enumeration of rights, and privileges shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people.

Just like the Constitution protects the broad concept of “speech” instead of particular modes of speech, it protects “arms” as a general concept of weaponry. The idea was not to protect a specific type of weapon, like a musket, any more than the idea of the First Amendment was to protect a specific mode of speech, like a quill pen or printing press. That is in large part because the Framers of our Constitution and the people who ratified it knew that while technology and circumstances would undoubtedly change in unanticipated ways, these broader concepts of self defense and free speech would remain vital to a free society.

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Constitutional Conservative