

Submitter: Ralph Ford
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB348

I am strongly opposed to the proposed legislation in this new bill. While it is called the "Reduction of Gun Violence Act", it in fact only serves to limit the law abiding citizen's ability to defend themselves, and to purchase and own items that are currently commonly available. It is a rehash of parts of the failed measure 114 and violates the Second Amendment to our nation's Constitution just as badly.

This measure is loaded with virtue signaling legislation that does nothing to actually improve the safety of the average citizen. For example, guns in general have nothing to do with race, equity, or gender. Furthermore, declaring an "emergency" is inflammatory and only intended to incite a feeling of false urgency. There is no urgent issue, either real or imagined, requiring the passage of this bill, and it will do nothing to actually improve the safety of the citizens of Oregon. In fact, all of the violence this bill apparently seeks to eliminate or reduce is already illegal.

Requiring expensive safety training and permits will limit or eliminate the ability of lower income people to purchase the training and permit that will be required to acquire a weapon to protect themselves. The cost of the training and permit will serve to discriminate against them. Instead, safety training should be taught in our public school systems by trained professionals like the local police or sheriff's departments and using an NRA approved curriculum. The NRA is recognized in this bill as a legitimate training entity, and has been teaching gun safety for decades.

Requiring a permit to purchase a firearm directly violates the Second Amendment of the Constitution, and therefore is not legal under any circumstance.

Adding wait times to gun purchases will not serve to improve safety because criminals will still be able to circumvent the law and purchase weapons on the black market. The added wait time may actually reduce the safety of citizens who live in high crime areas and have limited police protection. When seconds count, the police are only minutes away.

Restricting maximum magazine capacity to 10 rounds has already been shown to be unconstitutional. For example: California's ban on magazines that accept more than 10 rounds was found to be unconstitutional. Oregon should not waste the taxpayer's money or restrict its citizen's rights trying to attempt a similar ban. Guns and magazines with capacities greater than 10 rounds are currently in widespread use, and are commonly available.

Whether it is made public or not, a database of gun owners is an invasion of privacy.

In closing, I would like to refer to a quote from Plato:

"Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws."

This proposed legislation will do nothing to affect those who already ignore the law, instead it will restrict the law abiding citizen's rights and simultaneously reduce their safety.