

Having been a born in Oregon, I have seen many changes. I still believe that Oregon is a State that values the people, the resources we use and the land intrinsically. I also believe we are a State with Laws and that those laws come rooted in history. Some of that history is unjust and has been used to intimidate, belittle and oppress people. Sadly, SB 348 and its proposed amendment is viewed by me as yet another law to do just that.

The cost of the permitting system is expensive and will unfairly target people of lower socioeconomic status in a negative way. The proposed legislation also puts unfair and unbalanced restrictions of who can possess a firearm as a consequence of who can acquire a firearm. Those undergoing stress due to anxiety, fear and those who would be targeted and harassed based on their race, national origin, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, mental disability, military status, or family status would have to prove to an approved firearms instructor and then to a law enforcement department that they are mentally fit to acquire said firearm. Many people living in Oregon are averse to following the commands and instructions of law enforcement let alone, willing to risk stepping foot in one of their offices and being examined.

I have lots of respect for the people who put their lives at risk and make sacrifices of family time, financial stability all while under the eyes of public scrutiny and criticism. Yet they also have support and I believe that most genuinely want to be a part of their communities and help those they interact with, be better and succeed. I fear that this Legislation will only deepen a rift between those that fear law enforcement and first responders and those who are vocal for changes to our system.