

Submitter: Joshua R
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1503

In my own family growing up, I have experienced first hand what it's like to try and support somebody who is going through probably the worst moments of their life as they contemplate and even attempt to commit suicide. I understand and support efforts that lead to a better world where less people desire to act in self harm. However I do not have faith that this bill will do that. Far too often politicians get put in charge of things they don't really understand and in turn, choose the wrong people or miss the mark of what the original goal was. That goal should be lowering suicide by working towards it not even being a thought to consider. As I've studied statistics, one of the first things you learn is that you must be careful where you look at statistics and understand that any argument can be made and backed with some sort of statistic, wether it's skewed or not. I fear (and ultimately don't have faith) that this bill is not really meant to stop suicides, but just another effort to make it harder for law abiding gun owners to live life and make it more expensive which in a way is very classist and has always been the moves of the left. I support safe gun ownership and opportunities to learn how to do so. However I do not think it should be a requirement at the burden of the taxpayers. If we want to see real results in lowering suicides, we would see that the task force is to be made up of psychologists and people who've experienced both loss and getting out of their own situation. Definitely not whoever the governor sees fit would be a strong supporter for firearms restrictions. I get that the easiest way to end one's life is through lethal force such as a firearm. But come on, in any problem solving situation, when do we just go to the last resort and try to put a bandaid on it and hope it sticks? This bill is just that, going to what's perceived to be the best way to stopping somebody from ending their life and just making it just a little bit harder through increased firearms laws, which I should remind you "shall not be infringed". I think I can speak for most gun owners here that if the state really cared about curbing suicide, they would try to attract it at its root, and not just look for what they think is a "quick and easy fix". I can promise you that there is absolutely no way you will stop somebody from killing themselves whose already made up your mind, if all that you do is pass a bill that says gun owners need to lock their guns, take more classes, and tax them more. You can't really believe that this is going to be effective in stopping suicide. I know that you know better, but frankly, don't have faith that you will do what's best for the citizens and taxpayers of Oregon. I wish it were another way but actions speak louder than words. As a man of faith I care about other people and hate hearing when an innocent soul even feels the pressure from the circumstances of life that they don't think they can do it anymore, or are better off ending it. I can promise you that if there were a bill that was more effective on curbing suicide, I'd be there to support it. But unfortunately this is not it and is yet again another agenda play to gain more supporters for a so called just cause, when in

reality we both know what your end goal is. I urge you to reconsider what you intend on doing, we both know this bill won't make the world a better place.