

Submitter: Christopher Douglass
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1503

As a fifth generation, Oregonian, military, veteran, lawful gun owner with a CHL – I oppose this task force, in principle, based on the proposed make up of who will be representing on this task force group.

As I review the make up of this group, it is completely bias, and lacks representation of the lawful gun owning community. This body will not be a fair representation on the subject matter. I also take issue with the fact that recommendations will be given if only the majority of committee members approve of the recommendation. I believe the committee should have to reach unanimous consent. At very minimum, there should be a requirement of 3/4ths majority. I also believe that this is an urban issue, and that rural communities will not have a large enough membership on this task force to add represent all of Oregon. When death by suicide is separated, out in the data from actual homicide rates, will we truly see the small numbers of this so-called epidemic of gun violence here in Oregon that just doesn't exist!

Oregon doesn't have a gun violence problem, it has a mental health problem! When Oregon funding for mental health services is ranked 51st in our nation, that is a glaring fact that guns are not our problem, it is access and funding for adequate mental health services. We can't slip any further down the list of states, we are dead last! when the legislature and the governors office, make significant headway in improving the funding, and and the necessary services, only then will we start to see improvements.

Again, I encourage you to not move this bill any further due to these glaring flaws of this legislation. Our financial and intellectual resources would be better spent on fixing our mental health funding and how we provide services in the state of Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Douglass
Lebanon, OR