

Submitter: Russel Griffith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB947

Hello,

I oppose the change in naming. Oregon has a long history of allowing the supporting the people of Oregon to be armed and call on them when needed. The first provisional government of Oregon passed the first militia law on July 5, 1843. It authorized the forming of a battalion of mounted riflemen, composed of the male inhabitants of Oregon between the ages of 16 and 60 who wish to be recognized as citizens by the new government. Changing the name from militia to national guard would remove the historical context from the original history of Oregon. the Supreme Court has recognized that the term militia means the individual. Supreme Court cases like District of Columbia v. Heller (2008) and McDonald v. City of Chicago (2010) have solidified this individual right to possess firearms for self-defense and showing militia to mean individual rights. As stated earlier as based on historical precedent of the meaning the word militia should no be removed and replaced, changing the word from Militia to National Guard changes the meaning to remove individual rights from Oregonians. Thank you,