

Submitter: Mike Poe
On Behalf Of: Myself and my wife
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Is the right to keep and bear arms a second class right? Would we require similar training requirements and permits for the freedom of speech? Imagine if someone wrote a bill similar to HB3075/BM114, but impacting the freedom of speech:

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PREAMBLE

Whereas the People of the State of Oregon have seen a sharp increase in hate speech, online bullying, and raised fear in Oregonians of digital intimidation, it is imperative to enhance public health and safety in all communities; and

Whereas the online hate speech in Oregon and the United States, resulting in horrific deaths and devastating emotional injuries due to depression and emotional trauma-related suicides that are unacceptable at any level, and the availability of social media access, including Facebook, Reddit, TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and other media outlets with a high capacity to reach many users across the state/country, pose a grave and immediate risk to the mental health, safety and well-being of the citizens of this State, particularly our youth; and

Whereas Oregon currently has no permit requirements for using social media sites or any other type of internet-based service and studies have shown that permits-to-use reduce social media-related injuries and death and studies further have shown that social media use or access to social media triples the risk of suicide and doubles the risk of being the victim of an online sexual predator when compared to someone who does not have access, this measure will require that anyone using social media must first complete an online social media safety training course, successfully pass a full background check and, only then, will an individual be granted a 5 year permit-to-use social media, so that social media accounts are kept out of dangerous hands; and

Whereas large-capacity batteries are often associated with laptops used to access social media sites, and can also be used with many other electronic devices including smart phones, tablets and even desktop computers on battery backup, and estimates suggest that nearly 70% of online hate speech used in cyber bullying and hate speech crimes are equipped with large-capacity batteries; and

Whereas devices equipped with large-capacity batteries increase casualties by allowing a social media user to continue posting hateful and offensive speech for

longer periods of time before recharging, thus explaining their use in the vast majority of all online cyber bullying, resulting a 34% increase in the rate of suicide in Oregon over the last 20 years; and

Whereas improvements on high-capacity battery technology have resulted in over 3x battery life improvement over the technology available 30 years ago, allowing cyber bullies a dramatically increased battery life with which they can post hateful, suicide-causing hate speech at unprecedented levels, this measure will enhance the safety of residents, particularly children, of this state by prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or transfer of large-capacity batteries and regulate the use of such batteries that are currently owned; Now, therefore:

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon

The People of the State of Oregon find and declare that regulation of account creation, login, and any use of social media and restriction of the manufacture, import, sale, purchase, transfer, use and possession of batteries able to hold more than 20 Watt-Hours (PCs) or 6 Watt-Hour (phones) of energy will promote the public health and safety of the residents of this state and this Act shall be known as the Reduction of Online Hate Speech Act.

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Is there ANY world in which someone believes that an act like this could pass constitutional muster? I think not. HB3075 & BM114 are both just as unconstitutional as the parody bill above and should be opposed. Our ability to enjoy the freedom and benefits of living in a secure and free state must be defended!