

**Curt Onstott**  
4884 SW Roseberry St  
Corvallis, OR 97333  
[curt.onstott@gmail.com](mailto:curt.onstott@gmail.com)  
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**Oregon State Legislature**  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Subject: Opposition to HB 3075-1 – A Dangerous Precedent in Stripping Constitutional Rights From The Poor.**

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my absolute opposition to **House Bill 3075**, a measure that—despite whatever well-intentioned justifications its supporters may offer—**directly undermines the Second Amendment** and sets a dangerous precedent for restricting constitutional rights based on wealth, literacy, and government approval.

**This is How Governments Create Second-Class Citizens**

Under HB 3075, the right to keep and bear arms will no longer be **a right** for every law-abiding citizen. Instead, it becomes **a privilege**—one that can only be accessed by those who:

- ✓ **Can afford \$150+ in fees** just to apply.
- ✓ **Have the free time and money** for training courses that may cost **hundreds of dollars**.
- ✓ **Can navigate legal paperwork in English** without barriers.
- ✓ **Can wait months** for bureaucratic approval while their safety hangs in the balance.

By imposing these barriers, the Oregon Legislature is **not protecting anyone—it is selectively disarming the most vulnerable**. Those living in **high-crime areas**, single parents who fear for their children’s safety, and working-class individuals who can’t afford security systems or private protection are being told **they don’t deserve self-defense** unless they **pay for the privilege**.

**History Shows This is How Authoritarianism Starts**

This is **not** the first time in history that a government has used **bureaucracy and financial restrictions** to undermine fundamental rights. When people think of dictatorships, they picture soldiers storming homes and imprisoning citizens in broad daylight. But that’s not how most authoritarian regimes **start**. They start with **paperwork, fees, permits, and endless delays**—designed to make it so difficult for ordinary people to exercise their rights that most give up.

- **Jim Crow Laws** in the American South didn’t ban Black Americans from voting outright. Instead, they used **poll taxes, literacy tests, and "understanding clauses"**—

creating hurdles that made voting **functionally impossible for poor and uneducated individuals**.

- **The Weimar Republic** in pre-Nazi Germany introduced gun restrictions that required **permits, fees, and bureaucratic approval**. When Hitler came to power, those laws were used to **disarm political enemies** while ensuring that government allies remained armed.
- **The Soviet Union** controlled speech not by outright banning dissent, but by **requiring government-issued press permits** that could be revoked at any time. This ensured that only those in good standing with the government could have a voice.

Now, **Oregon is playing the same game**—turning the Second Amendment into a **pay-to-play system** where only the privileged can defend themselves.

### **If This Were Applied to Other Rights, It Would be Outrageous**

Imagine if the **First Amendment** required:

- A **\$150 fee** before speaking at a protest.
- A **mandatory government-approved training course** before practicing religion.
- A **background check and fingerprinting** before publishing a newspaper article.

We would **rightfully** call these laws unconstitutional. So why is it acceptable when applied to the **Second Amendment**? The answer is simple: It isn't.

### **A Law That Exempts the State While Disarming the Public**

One of the most **telling** parts of this bill is that it provides a **permanent exemption for active-duty law enforcement and military personnel**—but not for the average citizen. Why is it that **the very people who already have state-provided weapons and protection** get a pass, while a single mother in a dangerous neighborhood is told she must **pay up, prove herself, and wait for approval**?

This is not about **safety**—it is about **power**. A government that allows itself **unrestricted access to weapons while disarming the people it governs is not a free government**.

### **Conclusion: HB 3075 is a Trojan Horse for More Government Control**

HB 3075 is not a public safety bill. It is a **financial and bureaucratic attack on a constitutional right**. It is a **litmus test** for how far Oregonians will allow their rights to be eroded before they push back. If this bill is allowed to pass, it will **not be the last**. The **incremental destruction of constitutional rights always begins this way**—with justifications, with fees, with "common sense" regulations that quickly morph into full-scale disarmament.

If you truly believe in **justice, fairness, and equal protection under the law**, then you must **reject HB 3075**. Rights are not privileges for the rich. They belong to **every law-abiding citizen, without exception**.

Sincerely,

**Curt Onstott**

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