

Dear Committee Members:

Please vote NO on HB3075. Measure 114 was sold as a “gun safety” measure but only by way of deceptive advertising. It adds no safety and stops no crime. Despite overwhelming support of 114 by Oregon television and print media, it barely passed. It lost more support once voters learned what it was really about.

Supporters of 114 and now HB3075 claim it is about background checks. But background checks were already mandatory in Oregon without Measure 114 or HB3075. Everyone knows they lied to the voters to get it passed. It only adds another check that is 15 times the cost of the already-mandatory check, takes a long wait time, and adds no improved verification of applicant’s character. More money and time, no new benefits.

Supporters claim it is about reducing crime, however:

- Most felons arrested for crimes involving use of guns were already banned from possessing guns as previous offenders, but somehow have them anyway. The only people affected are law-abiding people who shop in legitimate gun stores or private sales. This makes things hard for the honest and does nothing to deter criminals.
- Chicago has similar laws. Their murder rate is higher than Columbia and Mexico.

Who is affected the most? Poor and BIPOC residents of high-crime areas who can’t afford to move.

- Residents of poor areas are impacted by gangs and an army of drug addicts. HB3075 will make residents’ lives harder, not safer because it will do nothing to the aggressors and plenty to the defenders.
- Poor residents can’t rely on police to arrive in time to protect them. Violent drug addicts wander around with no meaningful controls on their actions. Many cannot be reasoned with. This law does nothing to deter their actions, and everything to slow poor residents’ ability to protect their families.
- Over the last century, people of every race, gender, religion and other identity group have been blamed for things they did not do and persecuted. Harassment fell upon people who could not fight back. But those who did fight back saw their persecutors lose interest once the violence came the other way.
- Isn’t every new law subject to review for impact on under-represented communities? Somehow this won’t be a concern to the politicians who already have paid security staff or their own means of defense.

It is politically easy to blame guns for the crimes committed by people. It is much harder politically to deal with the perpetrators. Less pushback from families of criminals who always have some excuse for their behavior. But what is the right thing to do? Blame the right of self defense or deal with violent offenders? You get to decide.

I observe that the supporters of this legislation hand-picked a Court that makes it easy for the proponents and difficult for the people most harmed by this law.

This also seems like a tremendous waste of time and Oregon taxpayer money. It will not pass Constitutional muster. Proponents seem willing to spend tens of millions of dollars implementing and defending against lawsuits for years to come, only to be overturned when it gets to SCOTUS. We have better uses for the money.

To summarize:

- HB3075 does nothing to change existing violent crime because those committing crimes don’t obey gun laws any more than they obey robbery and murder laws
- Already marginalized community residents will be more impacted than wealthy Lake Oswego residents
- HB3075 sets Oregon taxpayers up for years of expensive implementation followed by expensive litigation only to be overturned in a few years.

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