

Oregon House Committee on Judiciary

March 17, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon State House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Senate Bill 3075, a gun control measure that betrays the progressive values of equity, community empowerment, and justice that Oregon must stand for. While the intent to curb violence is noble, this bill's approach—rooted in carceral logic and top-down control—fails to address the systemic drivers of harm and instead punishes the very communities it claims to protect. I urge you to reject this legislation and pursue solutions that truly honor our collective humanity.

Gun violence is a symptom of deeper societal wounds: poverty and alienation. Yet SB 3075 ignores these root causes, opting instead for restrictive measures that disproportionately target working-class people, rural communities, and marginalized groups who already bear the weight of over-policing and state surveillance. This isn't safety—it's a step toward authoritarianism dressed up as reform, eroding personal freedoms while letting corporate gun manufacturers and the systems that perpetuate inequality off the hook.

As a person committed to dismantling oppressive structures, I reject the idea that more laws, more bans, and more enforcement can heal what ails us. True community safety comes from investment in people—affordable healthcare, mental health resources, and living wages—not from piling regulations on individuals while the powerful remain untouched. Where is the accountability for the criminals and the war profiteers who flood our streets with weapons? Where is the vision for a society that doesn't need guns because it meets people's needs?

This bill also risks alienating the very coalitions we need to build a better future. Rural Oregonians, hunters, and those who see firearms as a means of self-reliance aren't the enemy—yet SB 3075 paints them as threats, deepening divisions instead of fostering dialogue. We should be organizing across these lines, not entrenching them with heavy-handed policy.

I stand with the grassroots voices—activists, mutual aid networks, and everyday Oregonians—who see SB 3075 for what it is: a band-aid on a broken system that prioritizes control over care. I implore you to vote NO and redirect our efforts toward transformative action: disarm the war machine, not the people; fund communities, not prisons; and build a state where violence fades because people thrive. Anything less is a betrayal of the hope we're fighting for.

In solidarity,  
Karen Darnell  
Josephine County