

Submitter: Brinn Jackson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Dear Members of the Assembly,

HB 3075 aims to prevent deaths and mass shootings but does so through a process that will; restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens, perpetuate the gap between Multnomah County and rural Oregonians, and avoids dealing with the mental health crisis that has been branded "Gun Violence."

Citizens need not pay to exercise their rights, however, they will if required to do so because of the coercive threats that come from violating a statute. Criminals and those suffering from mental health conditions do not subject themselves to living by the same rules. This bill unnecessarily burdens citizens who wish to exercise the rights provided by the United States Constitution and disproportionately affects rural citizens of Oregon.

Additionally, the vitriol in the is country at this point in time is shameful. Legitimate discourse on the disagreements regarding real social and economic issues (including homicide and suicide) has turned into a constant war on truth by spinning the facts surrounding events to gain leverage. This is easily visible when listening to differing points of view from those who reside in the Northern I-5 corridor versus the rest of the state. It is my assertion, that given the sour tone of the political climate, both groups have begun an unproductive political battle that focuses on causing pain and reaction from the other side that solves none of the issues. This particular issue defines the term, "tyranny of the majority" while managing to do nothing but cost Oregon taxpayers millions of dollars in litigation costs and further driving a wedge between our fellow citizens that love this state.

Finally, the use of term "gun violence" to capture any unfortunate event where a firearm is present is an argument in bad faith. In a society where guns exist, people will die from firearms. The same is true for automobiles and cheeseburgers. Deaths by suicide, homicide, and even accidental shootings are sad reality of our world. I applaud the members of the assembly who, in good faith want to prevent unnecessary death and injury. Yet, in the same way we do not prevent free citizens from owning a car that exceeds the speed limit, or ration cheeseburgers to prevent cardiovascular disease, we should not approach this issue by limiting the freedom of Americans. The only effective way forward is by addressing the broader concern, mental health. The Coal Gas example of the 1960s is often cited as a means to an end to prevent suicide. For those unfamiliar, the gist is that removing lethal means reduces the chances that someone in distress will be successful in taking their own

life. While compelling, the statistics work for a particular time period and do not endure generationally. Furthermore, the term "mass shooting" has been invented without clear definition to draw attention to the same issue, but again, through an equally disingenuous lens. The characterization of gang violence as "mass shootings" to sensationalize tragedy and create fear is pure avoidance of the truth regarding this social issue that needs addressed. It seeks to twist statistics and perpetuate belief that a random shooter is around every corner waiting to strike. Real active shooter scenarios are a serious threat to the public that need to be addressed, along with gang and domestic violence, by providing timely/appropriate mental health care and by building the resiliency that can be experienced by a society confident in their systems and institutions.

These issues are extremely difficult, and I encourage this Assembly to address them head on by respecting the rights of Oregonians, thwarting the vilification of those who disagree with each other, and taking steps to arm our citizens with the skills and resources to prevent the kind of crisis situation that leads to tragedy.

Respectfully,

Brinn Jackson