

Submitter: Christina Forton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,
My name is Christina Forton, and I am the mother of four children. I am writing today to oppose HB3075, a bill that would directly undermine the rights of vulnerable citizens, including women, minorities, and marginalized groups, to defend themselves.

As a woman and a mother, I believe I have a fundamental right to protect myself and my family from harm. Unfortunately, HB3075 seeks to strip us of that ability by limiting our access to self-defense tools. As a vulnerable individual, especially as a woman who may be physically weaker than a potential attacker, I should not be denied the means to defend myself if I find myself under threat. This bill would place me, and so many others, in a dangerous position where we would be unable to adequately protect ourselves or our loved ones.

But this issue extends beyond just women. HB3075 would also disproportionately impact vulnerable minorities—those who already face higher risks of discrimination, violence, and attacks. The LGBT community, people of color, and other marginalized groups deserve the same ability to protect themselves as anyone else. These communities have historically been subjected to hate crimes and violence, and limiting their access to self-defense will only make them more vulnerable.

No one should be forced into a position where they cannot defend themselves when under attack—especially those who are already facing social, economic, or racial inequalities. The ability to defend oneself is not just about physical safety, it's about empowerment, dignity, and the right to exist without fear of harm.

HB3075 would not make our communities safer. It would take away the tools that law-abiding citizens, including women and minorities, need to protect themselves from those who would do them harm. By disarming responsible people, the bill would only embolden criminals, who, by nature, do not follow the law. It will leave vulnerable groups more exposed, less able to protect themselves, and more likely to suffer at the hands of those who are intent on causing harm.

We should be focusing on policies that protect the safety and rights of all Oregonians, not just the privileged few. I urge you to consider the real-life consequences this bill would have on marginalized communities and those who are most vulnerable. Please do not pass HB3075. Instead, work toward solutions that empower individuals to defend themselves in any situation.

Sincerely,
Christina Forton
Concerned Citizen and Mother