

TO: Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice Chair Wallen and Committee Members

FROM: Rick Coufal, Sisters, Oregon

Colonel US Army (Ret)

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Division (Ret)

NRA-ILA Frontlines Activist Leader for Oregon

Past Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor (16 Years)

Active NRA Firearms Instructor (15 Years)

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SUBJECT: I am opposed to HB 3075-1

I consider this a very important Oregon issue, and I am testifying on this legislative House Bill 3075 and HB 3075-1 Amendment while on vacation with my family in Hawaii.

HB 3075-1 is still a flawed bill, this bill along with BM 114 is unconstitutional in part if not entirely. The desire to reduce Gun Violence is a noble cause and I firmly believe we need to do this, but this bill does not and will not stop gun violence by itself. Firearm suicide is stoppable, but it takes strong action by close family members and or friends to spot a mental health change and have the courage to report it not just to other family members or other friends but to take an active role and either let the authorities take action and remove the firearms of members of the family to do so. This is not easy, as most family and friends see the mental health decline but are afraid to take action and want to blame a firearm not the mental health of the individual.

We're quick to save money or spend it on everything else. What happened to Dammasch State psychiatric Hospital, which operated in Wilsonville, Oregon, had a capacity of **460 beds** before it closed in 1995. It was condemned and torn down and NEVER REPLACED. Our State Hospital has a capacity of only 700 patients. According to national guidelines, a state should aim for **40 to 60 inpatient psychiatric beds per 100,000 people** to adequately meet mental health care needs. For Oregon, with a population of approximately 4.3 million, this would translate to around **1,720 to 2,580 beds**. However, reports suggest that Oregon currently falls short of this benchmark, leading to challenges in providing timely and effective care for individuals in need.

If we really want to curb gun violence, especially firearm suicide we need more psychiatric beds in Oregon, as that is were we could do the most good, but that would be very expensive and not realistic, its easier to blame the gun not the person and just restrict access to only the middle class or higher who NEVER have a mental Health Issue!

But getting back to HB 3075-1, which is easier and only affects firearm ownership, it is still flawed. If we want to teach our young children about guns to make them safer, then we need to require all children to go through the NRA Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program (“It is a gun accident prevention initiative developed by the NRA to teach children in pre-K through fourth grade what to do if they encounter a firearm. The program's key message is: "Stop! Don't Touch. Run Away”. “Tell a Grown-Up.”).

Oregon's safe storage law, outlined in **ORS 166.395**, requires firearm owners to secure their firearms when they are not being carried or under the owner's control. Here are the key points:

**1. Storage Requirements:**

- Firearms must be secured with a trigger or cable lock, in a locked container, or in a gun room.
- A firearm is not considered secured if the key or combination to the lock or container is readily accessible to unauthorized individuals.

**2. Unattended Firearms:**

- Handguns left unattended in a vehicle must not be visible from outside the vehicle.

**3. Penalties:**

- Violations of the safe storage law are classified as a Class C violation.
- If a minor gains access to an unsecured firearm due to the owner's negligence, the violation becomes a Class A violation.

**4. Civil Liability:**

- If an unsecured firearm is used to cause injury or damage within two years of a violation, the firearm owner may be held liable for negligence.

These measures aim to reduce accidental shootings, unauthorized access, and firearm-related injuries or death, by eliminating access to firearms.

I know the common argument is that Firearm deaths are the highest cause of suicide and deaths in Oregon besides motor vehicles. But the statistics disprove this argument. In Oregon there Were:

Here are the total firearm-related deaths in Oregon by year from 2020 to 2023:

- **2020:** 123 deaths
- **2021:** 156 deaths
- **2022:** 193 deaths

Yet, drug overdoses from Fentanyl or other illegal drugs was much higher:

Here are the drug overdose deaths in Oregon from 2020 to 2023:

- **2020:** 824 deaths
- **2021:** 1,189 deaths
- **2022:** 1,383 deaths
- **2023:** 1,833 deaths

As you can see the number of drug-related deaths is much higher. Let's focus on drugs and mental health not Legally owned firearms or standard capacity magazines.

HB 3075-1 restricts standard capacity magazines (over 10 rounds) and declares them illegal, yet this is for the most part a non-enforceable provision within HB3075-1. It would be much simpler and would be acceptable to many firearm and standard capacity magazine owners if you simply stated standard capacity magazines can only be used on private property, private ranges or public shooting areas. Transportation of these magazines requires them to be separated from the firearms.

I would be happy to sit down with any legislator or staff member to make this a simpler and easier understood segment of HB3075-1.

Rick Coufal