

Submitter: Ronald Goodpaster  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

My name is Ron Goodpaster, and I live in Lane County near Florence Oregon. I am a retired Law Enforcement Officer and have a CCW to carry firearms. I patrolled both rural and city areas during that time.

Over my 27 year career, I never saw a legitimate CCW carrier commit any criminal violence with a firearm. I did see several incidents where citizens in rural areas used firearms to protect themselves before we could arrive, including twice where they legally discharged firearms in self defense. Large capacity magazines and so called assault weapons were never a factor in those cases.

The only times I saw those types of firearms and magazines used illegally, criminal gang members were using them to shoot at each other. In one case, over 70 rounds were fired indiscriminately into a riotous crowd of opposing gang members outside a local night club. The arrests we made and firearms recovered showed that most of the guns were stolen and possessed by people who were not legally allowed to have them due to criminal history.

My point in all this is that restrictive gun laws only affect the good people. Criminals do not care about any law you all pass, and they never will.

As for the mass shootings across the nation, committed by folks who did obtain guns legally, I understand the desire for the legislature to pass something, anything really, as an optic to their base that they are doing something about it. Doing that, however, will be folly, and ultimately not effective.

The root of mass shootings is mental health based, not tool based. Restrictions on the masses to stop an extremely small fringe element will only serve to punish most of us for the actions of a small few. It will also reduce the chances that a legitimate CCW carrier, or other "good guy with a gun," can intervene, by reducing the number of those folks.

Please don't pass another political window dressing law, and focus on the root cause of gun violence on the mental health side. Actually prosecuting criminals who use guns illegally would also be helpful. I saw many gun charges dropped on my cases in return for guilty pleas on other aspects of the case, when I felt the gun charge itself was the most significant.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Ron Goodpaster- Florence Oregon