

To Whom it May Concern,

I am submitting the comments below as written testimony regarding SB 978, in lieu of being able to attend the public hearing currently scheduled for 4/2/19. Thank you for routing this to the Senate Committee On Judiciary.

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Dear Senate Committee On Judiciary,

I am writing today to express my concern over Senate Bill 978.

Putting aside the simple fact that criminals rarely (if ever) follow the law -- this piece of legislation is deeply flawed from the beginning.

Taking law-abiding gun owners and turning them into criminals overnight is not going to stop or even stem the violence in this state, let alone the country. Neither will putting onerous burdens on citizens who wish to simply exercise their rights. This is not attacking the real problem head-on whatsoever.

Instead, perhaps the judicial system and criminal sentencing reforms could be examined. Mental health services could be expanded and adequately funded. School children could be taught firearms safety so that accidents are reduced and respect is fostered. Law enforcement could be properly staffed and directed to address the epidemic of both gang and drug violence (with the majority of gun deaths being linked to both). Pharmaceutical companies could be investigated for the potential role their drugs have played in many mass shootings. And finally, the media should be held to a higher standard -- there is absolutely a culture and acceptance of violence in entertainment today.

Quite honestly, I am disappointed in both sides of the aisle on this issue. Disappointed that we don't have real solutions from our lawmakers, disappointed that we have knee-jerk reactions meant to appease a certain voter base, and disappointed that protecting and rights and lives of all Oregonians has taken a back seat to political ambitions.

I appreciate your time and consideration to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
C. DiGennaro  
Portland, OR