

Dear Committee Members,

The cities and states in our union that have the toughest gun laws are and have become the most violent and unsafe in our nation, e.g. multiple cities in California, Seattle, Washington and Chicago, Illinois for example.

It's been proven time and again, that the tougher and more restrictive the gun laws are, the more difficult it is for the weakest among us to be able to protect themselves from victimization - senior citizens, women, marginalized groups, et al.

I'm not sure why certain members of the committee feel that our constitutional rights are up for debate. You are only emboldening criminals to continue to victimize the citizenry by not allowing the citizenry the opportunity to protect themselves as they need to and see fit. This draconian amendment and bill will cause this great state to have even more violence and crime, not less, as it's been proven time and again.

The members of this committee who support this will have to live with the knowledge that you have allowed the villains, gang members, rapists, thieves and murderers among us to have the upper hand, if you move forward with these unconstitutional actions.

But it's my genuine hope that you will make the right choice by not allowing this amendment and bill to pass.

And that you remember that our forefathers left their homes, families and countries for a new beginning - they only wanted and sought for freedom from tyranny in all its forms just as us, their offspring, also desire the same.

Thank you,

Shani Rivers from Beaverton, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone