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Cc: sen.petercourtney@oregonlegislature.gov
Subject: SB 978

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To the members of The Senate Judiciary Committee,

I'll be brief and to the point. You won't recognize my name as I have never contacted any of you, despite being a lifelong Oregonian and registered Democrat. Creating SB 978 as you have has prompted me to step up and speak.

SB 978 will do nothing to prevent the crimes I presume you are trying to address such as school shootings and the like. Those are certainly terrible incidents, but they are typically perpetrated by mentally ill people or just plain criminals, not by members of the law abiding public. Mentally ill people and criminals simple don't care about the law and they will obtain their weapons, whether they be guns, knives or cars, (all have been used in mass casualty events) in any manner they can.

The simple measure to use is would the proposed provisions of SB 978, if already in effect, have prevented any recent mass casualty event from occurring? The answer is NO. Again, the mentally ill and criminal elements will ignore all laws to get their weapons. The real and better solution is to address mental health care and severely prosecute gun related crimes under the present laws. That's not currently being done.

It appears that the supporters of this bill are looking for someone else to blame, other than the perpetrator, for a criminal act. Certainly prosecute someone that consciously aids in the commission of a crime, but to expect a law abiding gun owner to be responsible for the actions of the unknown crook that burglarizes a house and steals a properly secured weapon is quite frankly ridiculous. I'm aware of burglaries where small safes were taken, to be broken into later at a safe location for the crook. I know this because I have seen the demolished safes later dumped as junk. That is only one of the many major problems with SB 978.

Again, prosecute the person(s) committing the crime, not the rest of us.

Finally, if the supporters of SB 978 personally hate guns, in our country, they have that right to feel that way. It's a freedom we all enjoy, to believe as we wish. However, as elected representatives, they are elected (hired) to protect my rights under the United States and Oregon Constitutions, not inflict their beliefs on me in violation of those documents. It was part

of the oath of office you took when you were sworn in. Its time to look in the mirror and ask yourself if you are living up to that oath. From here it does not appear so.

Frankly I'm beyond embarrassed to admit being a member of a political party that can't correctly identify and evaluate a problem, and propose common sense solutions. Have the backbone to do what's correct. Stop doing dumb, feel good, and ineffective things, dump SB 978 and similar measures, and instead concentrate on mental health treatment and prosecuting/punishing the real criminals.

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