

My name is James Pienovi , a 72 year Oregon Resident from Canby, Oregon. I support universal background checks and bans on Bump Stocks. I believe gun violence is real. However, my input is a pleading for thoughtful and true leadership in addressing a severe problem in our country and not another overly simplistic enactment of politically feel good rhetoric into gun laws; Over 50% of gun deaths are suicides. gang related fatal shootings in Chicago are so common as to not normally make the evening news. Of the school and other "mass shootings" the majority were conducted by youthful persons unable to emotionally cope with their social environment. Isn't it obvious that someone 18 or so years old who goes to school and shoots randomly at fellow class mates, has a serious mental issue and lacks significant skills in coping with anger and rejection. Remember a number of school shooters shot themselves.

Simply put, we have a society with inner city young men looking to gangs for recognition, a growing drug use sub-culture numbing out, and youngsters unable to cope and lacking healthy skills to deal with dysfunctions. Locking up guns in safes, restricting the access of gun-owning citizens may sound like something is being done, but think please, doesn't it miss the point? All evidence supports the more fundamental societal challenge we all share. Washington DC, Chicago, Los Angeles have the most stringent gun control regulations yet suffer gun violence on a daily basis. Real leadership would recognize and step up to this very basic but complicated social and mental issue by establishing more meaningful outreach, support, counseling, and the institutional money and infrastructure necessary to mitigate the desperation of poverty, drugs, and mental dysfunction rather than simply banning guns etc. So I implore you once again, please don't focus on gun regulation returning home feeling like you have done something while the really hard challenge of making a social difference is once again ignored and takes a second place to political expediency and yet another News Headline of gun control. Isn't it completely clear wherein lies the true problem? Isn't gun violence just the symptom? Please ask yourself before voting, which form of leadership you are really willing to demonstrate in our legislature: innovative steps to intervene in the proclivity to use a gun for unlawful purposes, or another "me too" gun regulation like those currently addressing just the symptom.