

I write you as a concerned law abiding citizen. I lack the money to be able to join you to give testimony in person so I am writing to all of you in hopes that you will not pass SB 978 with the "Dash-1" amendments. I am not a lawyer, or one of the political class but I am a gun owner and I feel it is my duty to reach out to all of you in hopes of creating a bridge of understanding that isn't influenced by the big money on both sides of the firearms issue.

With Bloomberg on one side and the NRA on the other it seems to me that when the two of them get to yelling at each other they drown out the voices of the average person. That goes counter to how I believe our country should be run.

I have been a hobbyist builder of firearms for years and have always followed all state and federal laws while enjoying my hobby. I originally got involved in home building firearms because our family is low income and cannot afford "nice" firearms. We were in the position of either having to acquire low quality firearms for home defense and sport or learn to build our own firearms. Thankfully we found there is a widespread community who engages in the home building of firearms and to our surprise they are very welcoming and eager to show people how to safely and legally build their own firearms. Sadly the dash-1 amendments would mean the end of that community in Oregon.

Furthermore it would rob those of low income of a viable means of self defense. Home Built firearms are actually very rarely used in crime and in fact most firearms obtained by criminals are either stolen or purchased via the already illegal "straw purchase" method.

80% receivers have been around as long as I've been a home builder (that means 10+ years) so it strikes me as odd that we have all of a sudden decided to make issue of it. I'm guessing the erroneous belief that 3d printing allows people to just press a button and have a working machine gun is at play here but I could very well be wrong.

Simply put most criminals aren't going to spend hours with a drill press and files finishing a gun, then spend at least a couple magazines worth of ammo to find all the parts that are slightly out of spec or need a little bit more filing before the gun will function reliably

If you are thinking "well you can just follow the new law and serialize all your old home built guns" I have news for you, that isn't possible.

I know that the first versions of the polymer 80 pistol frames did not have a plate on which you could engrave a serial on in compliance with 27 CFR 478.92. The current generation of polymer 80 pistol frames do happen to have a suitable surface to engrave a serial on but that is no help to those who built their guns on the older version of frame. There are other polymer unfinished receivers on the market as well that also lack a suitable surface for the necessary engraving.

Beyond that what can be done for those who built their guns in compliance with the law at the time but are now unknowingly criminals? The very fact that they home built their firearms means there is no list that you can use to send out notices. The first notice a law abiding firearm owner may very well receive will be from the law enforcement official who is being forced to arrest them.

Furthermore in the definition of unfinished frame or receiver it says an item is not an unfinished frame or receiver if its a component of a hunting rifle. I can forgive the author for not knowing this but AR-15's ARE hunting rifles. The 223 round and the AR-15 platform are employed commonly by people who hunt

"varmint" such as prairie dogs and coyote's. It is even used by many as a rifle with which they hunt deer.

Also the amendment has a very vague definition of "Unfinished frames or Receivers" It defines a Unfinished Frame or Receiver as a partially completed frame or lower receiver consisting of a blank casting or machined body. This leaves much open to interpretation. Sub machine guns (machine guns firing a pistol round) can be built with a simple metal tube serving as their receiver. Unless we are ready to lock up everyone in the plumbing business this is a horrible proposition.

As for other aspects of the "Dash-1" amendments here is what I can tell you:

The amendment enshrines a business's decision to refuse service to 18 year old's. While I agree that 18 year olds are kids and goofy but we are willing to let a person fight our wars at the age of 18 so denying them the right to buy rifles and ammunition makes no sense.

I am absolutely willing to be part of a discussion on what governments role in promoting safe firearms storage and use is but this amendment is written in a way that opens the door to all manners of abuse.

While I am a firm believer in safe firearms storage I feel that Sections 6 and 12 penalize and blame the victim of a crime. This is not acceptable in the case of rape so I cannot accept that it is ok in the case of someone having their firearm stolen.

Furthermore in section 6(b) it states that "a firearm is not secured if a key, combination or other means of opening a lock or container is readily available to the a person the owner or possessor is not authorized to carry or control the firearm. " Well harbor freight sells bolt cutters and sawzall's so this means absolutely no one is able to store their firearm in a safe manner according to this amendment. If you want to legally mandate secure storage of firearms I'm willing to talk about it but you can't ask that we store our guns in a safe manner and then leave overzealous cops/prosecutors a "get into jail free" card to use against law abiding citizens.

In closing I'd like to thank you if you made it this far. I found many things troubling with this piece of legislation and felt compelled to personally send each of you a copy of my testimony. I really don't expect any of you will read it but it is my duty as part of the citizenry to do all I can to preserve liberty. After all as Abraham Lincoln once said "America will never be destroyed from outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

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