

Dear Committee Members:

I submit this written testimony out of a feeling of despair. Despair in that I see a hell-bent rush by my elected representatives at all levels to add new laws and regulations to the thousands of laws and regulations that already exist, which apparently are not working, all the while knowing that one more law like the laws we already have will also not work. Please recognize that the laws and regulations you promote and enact are nothing more than ink on paper, and are only effective if responsible citizens recognize their need and are willing to obey them, which conversely would mean that the irresponsible citizens will continue to not recognize or obey the existing laws or new laws. Please do not continue to regulate the responsible citizen in the hope that the irresponsible citizen will suddenly see the error of their ways.

Regarding SB 978 (prior to Amendment), I am not so interested in determining the level of illegal purchases/attempts/transfers but would like to know how many arrests/prosecutions/convictions/incarcerations/re-offenses there have been. If the current laws are not effective, or are not being fully enforced, then I fail to see a need for new laws.

Regarding the amendments to SB 978, I see nothing in the 44 pages of proposed rules which will cause the irresponsible citizen to act in conformity to the law. I feel that increasing the minimum age for some firearm purchases/possession is an infringement of a right guaranteed to those who are considered adults in our society. Storage/reporting/liability penalties for the owner of a firearm that was illegally obtained and illegally used by others is unnecessary, we already have plenty of child endangerment laws and criminal/civil remedies if the firearm owner acts irresponsibly. Regulating undetectable/untraceable items will certainly stifle the spirit of invention we hold so dear and which has benefited our society in so many positive ways. I see no need for increasing the fees for CHL licenses/renewals, instead, I would like to see this state move to ""Constitution"" firearms carry as has been so successfully implemented in 13 states. And allowing localities to regulate firearms possession beyond the state and federal requirements is nothing more than legal trap and is an undue burden and an infringement on my individual and constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms.

I have lived in this state for 70 years and I have seen a proliferation of all types of rules and regulations and I have seen a segment of our citizenry that routinely and repeatedly violate these rules. If you want to stop these violations, then the violators must be removed from the environment that permits them to continue their lawlessness, that is they must be punished to the point that they will reform themselves. I am as compassionate as anyone if a person is willing to acknowledge their mistakes and make demonstrable changes in how they live their life and act in our society. I am willing to give them the shirt off my back, but I will not allow them to take it from me. We have to get more serious about enforcing the punishments already prescribed in our existing laws, and if the offending individuals will not reform themselves, then they lose their freedom to participate in our society as a free person. Thank you.

Gary Langlitz

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Lifetime resident of Oregon and have never received even a traffic citation!

Life Member of the National Rifle Association