

To whom it may concern,

Please note my concern about the rampant gun legislative action in Oregon in general, and the specific feedback about HB 2505 below. I generally believe change should not be made unless the specific proposed change addresses, in a logical way, a real problem statement, driven by data. Typically, problems are defined, MANY potential solutions are considered and ranked in terms of anticipated positive impact, and potential negative consequences, cost, etc. I believe the current anti-gun fervor in our state is driving people to jump on board with proposals before deeply considering how it may negatively impact many people with different cultural and public safety views. I'm concerned that MANY community-conscious, and community-contributing people will be made criminals if several of the Oregon introduced bills and amendments pass, if for only the complexity of navigating gun ownership rules. I DO support information outreach activities educating everyone about the risk of guns getting into the wrong hands, and encouraging people to secure ANYTHING they own that may be dangerous. Some amount of liability also may make sense to encourage taking safety seriously.

However, HB 2505 making a gun owner be liable for someones use of their gun, with no limitation of liability under certain circumstances, seems absurd. What other transfer of something potentially dangerous to someone that chooses to break the law with their use carries such potentially HUGE consequences? (Lawn mower?, car?, lighter?, hammer? other?). If I lend my car to someone I believed to be sane, but they maliciously drive it into a crowd of people, am I liable for that? If I hand my car keys to a 6 year-old, I get it, that would be negligence for which any court of my peers would agree I should be held liable; we already have a great process that covers gross negligence.

Lastly, I do not agree that "an emergency exists". If someone believes that, we should be seeing them strongly pursuing root-cause issues like mental health, bullying, gun-owner information outreach, criminal control, and copy-cat-inducing free press.

Thank you for your hard work, consideration and representation.