

To the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Although circumstances prevent me from attending the hearing on SB 978 to be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 8:00 a.m., I would like my voice to be heard. In an age of transparency, I do not appreciate the process of hiding the content of this bill. It appears that it was kept hidden so there will be no adequate time to prepare rebuttals against it. At best this is deceitful and unbecoming to the dignity of the Senate Judiciary Committee members. It does nothing to aid in fostering trust in and respect for our government leaders. I am strongly concerned this bill, with its seemingly harmless yet ambiguous wording, which most likely will change as the meeting progresses, is a foot-in-the-door, so-to-speak, to remove the right to bear arms from all of our citizens. I believe very strongly that my Second Amendment rights are *not* negotiable.

Throughout history whenever guns are taken away from the citizens, it is not long before they are either taken over by others *with* guns or slaughtered. The statistics are before you in the history records of our country and in those of other countries. I will cite one lesser known example coming from the state of Missouri, in which some of its law-abiding citizens were persecuted and harassed by mobs for many reasons, not the least of which was to take their property. These mobs were held at bay and feared to attack them as long as the persecuted citizens retained their arms. The mobs spread falsehoods about these people abroad in their and neighboring counties to alarm and inflame the public. Unfortunately, the governor of that state, believing the false reports, ordered the militia to take their arms from them. What happened next is classic and appears to be the nature of mankind. These unarmed people were massacred. Some fled the state to Illinois for protection; many, including children who begged for their lives, did not make it there. These people were totally defenseless. Their government, our government, could not protect them.

We have enjoyed the right as citizens of the United States to defend our homes from intruders, etc. for many decades. I believe what makes our country great and so different from other countries is its inspired Constitution. Over the years, I have watched the people of this great land lose their rights little by little through restrictions, amending this, amending that and not necessarily for the betterment of its citizens. Our rights are being taken from us one piece at a time. Do you honestly believe that making this bill into law will have any effect on the shootings? Who will enforce these laws to eventually disarm Americans? It *might* make it harder for violent people to get guns, but they *will* get them. As I understand it, New Zealand, a country where guns are banned, has recently had an increase in gun-related crimes. Where did those guns come from? Do you believe that gun-related crimes will decrease with the passage of this bill? Statistics have proven that it and other related crimes such as “breaking and entering” actually *increase* when the threat of lethal resistance at the door is removed, just as it happened in Missouri.

All this bill will succeed in doing is to restrict and punish *law-abiding* citizens and in so doing, prevent them from adequately defending their homes and families. There will be *no* places of safety in which to enjoy what liberties we have left and the “pursuit of happiness”.

Americans are not asleep and know and deeply care about their rights, as the last election has proven. Will you thoughtfully and prayerfully examine what long-term effects this bill might have on the citizens you were elected to serve and whose rights you are entrusted to protect? I urge you to defeat this bill or, in the words of our founding fathers, “amend it out of existence”.

I am and hope to find that *you* are a friend to and advocate for the Constitution of the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Debbie S. Brown

Portland, Oregon