

April 1, 2019

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Senator Floyd Prozanski, Vice-Chair Senator Kim Thatcher and other committee members,

I am writing this letter in **opposition** of **SB978**. This bill has more in it than what is stated in the synopsis and is not a well thought out bill. This bill, unfortunately, not only conflicts with the second amendment, it further penalizes law abiding citizens and gun owners.

I'd like to address some of the following areas of the bill.

- Minimum Age for Firearms –Creating a sliding scale of age for businesses is not effective and would cause confusion.
- Firearm Storage, Loss or Theft Reporting and Access by Minors – Having a trigger lock is fine if the weapon is in a gun safe, however, if using for personal protection then it is not always the best solution. If confronted by a criminal gun (who won't ever use a trigger lock) they will not wait for you to take it off but will instead shoot you dead.
- Undetectable and Untraceable Firearms – We already have a law in place that is sufficient.
- One of the areas further victimizes gun owners who have suffered a loss or theft of their property with criminal penalties if they fail to follow certain requirements when reporting them.
- Local Authority to Regulate Firearms in Public Buildings – There is a reason (for safety) that we carry concealed. Allowing local authority is again infringing on our constitutional rights.

Gun safety is a must and responsible gun owners follow the rules. However, criminals do not. By passing this bill, or any anti-gun bill, you are allowing the criminals to win. Did you know that there are four safety steps that every responsible gun owner knows? These steps/rules are as follows: 1. Always assume a gun is loaded, 2. Never let the muzzle cover something you are not willing to destroy, 3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target and 4. Be sure of your target and what is behind it.

I also have concerns as there is a shortage of qualified law enforcement officers. Because of this it is even more important that we have the ability to protect ourselves. I currently work in an area where safety is a concern. Besides having my car stolen, cars have been broken into, there have been stabbings within 5-6 blocks. By putting this bill in place, it does not allow me, or others to protect ourselves.

Please do not go forward with this bill.

Sincerely,

Michelle Dodge
Hubbard, Or