

SB 978 and its amendments is discriminatory at best, but will end up costing the rights and lives of innocent Oregonians if enacted. It looks to pass laws for problems that are nonexistent and clearly unconstitutional. The following are just a few of the problems with this piece of legislation:

1. Amendment Section 1 would allow companies and gun dealers to discriminate against Oregonians simply due to their age. Not only are 18 year olds allowed to serve in the military, but they are trusted and given access to automatic weapons and explosives. If Oregon trusts this age group to defend their freedom why would anyone want to allow businesses to discriminate against their constitutional rights?
2. Amendment Section 4 and 5 would victimize innocent citizens after a criminal steals their firearm, even if it was secured. How can the average citizen guarantee an item will not be stolen when high security banks and businesses are burglarized every day?
3. Amendment Section 7 holds average Oregonians liable for 2 years after firearms legally transferred, unless they can prove it had a gun lock. This puts an undue burden on the rights of citizens to prove their innocence for a crime they did not commit.
4. Amendment Section 14 would treat unfinished metal and plastic as firearms. This law is aimed to inconvenience and deprive Oregonians of their constitutional rights to manufacture firearms. The fees that would be imposed to conduct background checks and provide serial numbers hurt low income citizens who have a difficult time affording preassembled firearms. This is also not a way criminals get access to firearms. According to a 2016 Department of Justice study (<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/suficspi16.pdf>), of the 256,400 firearm related crimes examined, none used home manufactured firearms as described in this amendment.
5. Amendment Section 14 would allow concealed handgun (CCH) license fees to be increased by county. This is another amendment that places an undue burden on low income Oregonians in an effort to keep them from utilizing their constitutional rights.

6. Amendment Section 26 allows local governments to ban CCH license holders from carrying weapons in public buildings. Ignoring citizens' right to self protection can have devastating consequences. In 2013, a gunman shot 7 people at Los Angeles International Airport. In 2015, a terrorist shot and killed 14 people in San Bernardino County building. Both incidents took place in "gun free" buildings and in a state (CA) with the strictest gun control in the country. If the law did not work there why would it work in Oregon.

For all these reasons I urge the committee to vote NO on SB 978.

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