

Thank you for hearing my testimony in absentia for SB 978. In a word, this legislation is as appalling as the methods by which you are trying to pass it.

I began a life of target shooting and plinking when I was five years old--with the accompanying hunter safety training in my grade school shortly after. I lettered in target rifle shooting in high school, and carried my .22 target rifle on the school bus and stored it in my locker. Other kids drove beat up old pickups to school in the Portland area and stored a rifle or shotgun in the rack behind the seat, left the doors unlocked and even left the window down. In the 1970s, you just didnt mess with others peoples property, and it was inconceivable you would so much as think of hurting someone else.

Today I live in Sisters, in Central Oregon, and travel all around Eastern Oregon. We have coyotes and black bear walking through town from off the mountains where I fly fish. Ive had two bears walk within 50 feet of me. We have a wolf pack right outside of town, and sometimes they get into it with a cougar. It creates quite a mess. If you've seen either, you would want to carry a firearm for protection too.

What you are doing with the proposals in this bill is unconscionable. You put the burden of firearm crime on law abiding citizens, making us into felons at the mistep of running a fowl of this grandious plan to grab Oregonians guns. It is akin to someone stealing your car and holding the owner responsible for the thief's misuse by ensuring jail time, fines, and felonies for the owner, not the criminal.

Let's not sugar coat what you are doing. It is not in the interest of law abiding Oregonians; it serves some bigger interest elsewhere. In light of the fact that constitutional sheriffs across this state have already deemed it unconstitutional and will not enforce this bill, I urge you to drop this bill and find more useful things to work on.

Sincerely,

Mike Grigsby
Sisters, Oregon