

Mr. Chairman ; Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in two parts, the first addressing the manner in which our Legislature is being used by the political Left to implement gun control for reasons unrelated to public safety, and the second addressing the issue of the mass shootings which have precipitated the recent furor over gun control.

Part I:

Like all anti-gun measures, SB 978 itself is merely a vehicle with which the Left, which is now in complete control of our State Government, can by progressive Amendments foist upon us as much gun control as they think they can get away with at this point in time.

SB 978 perfectly exemplifies this type of abuse of the legislative process, comprising a byzantine shell game of bills, amendments, and parliamentary trickery such as the so-called "Gut-and-stuff" tactic, which the Legislature uses to confuse its constituents and frustrate any objection to unpopular legislation. Underlying this, in the case of issues - such as gun control - which are driven by leftist ideology, is a covert agenda which has nevertheless become progressively more and more obvious:

(1) Progressive elimination of individual freedom, with the goal of central control of all human activities, as determined by the "wise men" of academia and politics,

(2) Subjugation, and ultimate elimination, of rural dwellers and rural life entirely, with exceptions for those deemed politically and socially appropriate to live in a rural setting, and

(3) Elimination of all private means of self-defense, by progressively enacting more and more regulations and restrictions. This last objective is of course fundamental to achieving the first two.

Even further underlying this, though, is a profound, visceral hatred of unrestricted human freedom, of self-reliance, and of independent and "inappropriate" thought. The Left sees all of these as a threat and has, for a century or more, tried ruthlessly to stamp them out. I.e., they hate us gun owners and rural people, just for the freedoms that we represent.

Most of us who currently live the lifestyle of which leftists - particularly urbanites - are so disapproving, are not the benighted, ignorant, toothless rednecks that they suppose us to be. In contrast with urban dwellers, we have no visceral fear and hatred of tools and implements such as firearms, or of those who own and use them. Moreover, as one might infer from the preceding, we're well aware of the leftist agenda and of the aforementioned machinations of their lackeys in the Legislature.

We ask the Legislature to let reason prevail, and stop enacting useless gun laws on behalf of these hate-driven leftist ideologues.

Part II:

Meanwhile, a very real issue exists with respect to the entirely new phenomenon of mass shootings which has come about. Our lawmakers have done nothing to address this problem, choosing instead to reflexively react to the opportunistic, self-serving demands of the Left for more restrictions on firearms ownership, while effecting no solutions to the problem at all.

The path to the solution is nevertheless in plain sight: Prior to 1960, semiautomatic firearms with large-capacity magazines were readily available, even by mail order, to anyone of any age - and with no "Background Checks". Despite this, we did not see the type of mass murders that are now occurring. By sheer logic, therefore, these two facts taken together prove conclusively two things: one, that availability of firearms is completely irrelevant to the current phenomenon of mass killings, and two, that there are, for some as yet unknown reason, individuals now at large among us who have an overweening compulsion to murder their fellow human beings at random.

Therefore, the task before our Legislatures is not to waste time and effort reflexively attacking firearms ownership, but to first determine what exactly has changed and is causing or allowing this type of individual to now exist among us, and second, to determine what steps must be taken to remove the causal factor or factors. Not only is this the necessary and only solution, but failure to proceed in this manner is a tacit admission that we are now willing to accept a society in which such people exist among us, where previously they did not.

This type of problem must be addressed with epidemiological methods, by - and this last requirement cannot be stressed enough - unbiased and impartial investigators. Numerous causal factors have been proposed to account for the change, and in fact there may be not just one but a combination of several factors that is responsible. Nevertheless, responsible and objective research will ferret out the cause or causes, but any proposals for legislation in the absence of such investigation will be entirely hit-or-miss.

Meanwhile, we can be certain that not only is firearms legislation of no use, but that the time, effort, and money being expended on it is being diverted from getting at the real root causes of the problem, as stated above. Therefore, we ask - and rest assured, I speak on behalf of thousands of Oregonians of my persuasion - that the Legislature abandon its useless pursuit of gun control, and refocus the resources therefrom toward finding and implementing a solution to the - dismally misnomered - problem of "Gun Violence".

My thanks for reading this, to anyone who has read it to the end.

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