

Representatives:

All people, everywhere, have a right to live -- even where it is not acknowledged by their government. Implicit in that right to live is the right to defend one's own life, and the lives of others: if you have a right to live, but are denied the right to defend your life, then effectively that nullifies your right to live by being defenseless against attack. These are fundamental, inherent human rights, seldom acknowledged, but universal.

The 2nd amendment acknowledges the right to defend life in the U.S. Constitution, and Article 1, section 27, repeats this acknowledgment in the Oregon Constitution. Impediments to that right, for any reason, are attacks against the lives of the law abiding citizen, but do nothing to restrain the lawless person. Why would government seek to tilt the balance of power toward the lawless, when most of the time lawless acts are done with no one to defend life except the victim?

18-year-old citizens may serve to defend their country. How can you propose not allowing them to not exercise their fundamental right of self-defense? This is an unconstitutional infringement of a fundamental human right.

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