

After reviewing the amendments to SB978, I have come to the conclusion that the authors of this aren't interested in "public safety" but simply want to make life for law abiding Oregonians as difficult as possible. Limiting the legal expression of a civil right is certainly the way to do that. Nothing proposed is the result of any solid data and no data driven results will support the stated purpose of this law. Public safety will simply not be enhanced. But then, we all know that. Allow me to address a few of the points in the amendment.

Indemnifying retailers to discriminate against someone under the age of 21 and bar them from a firearms or ammunition purchase makes Oregon's "reputation" for tolerance and acceptance laughable. In response, I'm counseling high school students not to consider joining the Oregon National Guard. It seems foolish to be willing to serve and risk your life for a political system that has no respect for you. That is unless you want to vote for them in which case we'll go ahead and let you do that at 16 because you're clearly mature enough to do that.

Holding law abiding citizens liable for property that was legally transferred to another law abiding citizen and then used to cause harm simply makes no sense. My youngest son was hit by a drunk driver who rented the car legally. Is the rental company or the vehicle manufacturer liable? Of course not. The law holds the individual responsible.

Increasing CHL fees? Fine, as long as they are tax deductible. If you object to that, then explain why you believe it is reasonable to charge to express a civil right. Are you in favor of poll taxes, as well?

Amending the state constitution to allow municipalities and others to ban law abiding CHL holders from public buildings is also foolish. First, we are not the problem in any of these areas and never have been. Second, you will create a patch work of legal carry areas that will vary from location to location making it nearly impossible to know where one is breaking the law or isn't breaking the law. Current CHL laws are fine and very effective just as they are now.

My wife is a native Oregonian. I've lived here since the 1980's. Together we've raised a family that are growing to be successful. We pay taxes, follow the rules and are active in our community and have been for decades. Oregon used to have a reputation as a place that made room for all. You go your way and I'll go mine peacefully but that's all changed. I fully expect our legislature's super-majority to exercise it's power over the majority of counties that did not vote for it by passing this and any other anti-civil rights law that comes to their minds. It's this display of raw political of power that makes me wish Oregon had an electoral college. It's also what will drive my family and I to take our portable jobs, property and taxes to another state that respects the individual and civil rights.

Respectfully,

Ron Alvarez
Bend, Oregon