

Senators:

Firearms owners, along with all citizens, have rights spelled out in the Second Amendment, Fourth Amendment, Fifth Amendment and Tenth Amendment in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution and in Section 9 and Section 27 in the Bill of Rights of the Oregon State Constitution. Any law passed infringing or taking away these rights spelled out in the Bill of Rights is deemed Unconstitutional on both the state and federal level. When you all were elected into the Senate Office, you took oath to uphold the Constitution, and if you elect to support the Amendment proposed to SB978, it will be in direct violation of both the Constitution and your oath to protect it.

Historically, these actions the Oregon Legislature are contemplating are ineffective at best, and at worst are extremely dangerous. A couple of examples of such are outlined below, but this is not an exhaustive list of immense concerns over this Amendment:

Firearm storage and securing: On March 12, 2014 at 9am while I was home alone in bed, sick with severe bronchitis, a felon previously convicted of kidnapping, raping and sodomizing two 11 year old girls in Springfield, OR, and having served 15 years of a 20 year sentence, broke into my home through two double locked external doors, high on methamphetamine in the Junction City, OR district. I am trained and frequently practice the use of firearms for self-defense. My choice of self-defense firearm was readily accessible, and within seconds I was able to neutralize the situation, holding the perpetrator at gunpoint for TWENTY THREE minutes while waiting for law enforcement to make the high speed 15 mile journey on rough country roads. I certainly saved myself from being attacked and raped that day, and possibly from having my life taken. I am a 120lb, 5 foot 6", middle-aged woman that would have otherwise stood little to no resistance to a younger, taller, heavier-set male who was high on methamphetamine.

This proposed legislation would for my situation, and for many other women, youth and men in similar situations, have meant I could not have accessed my firearm quickly enough to provide an equalizer into a very dangerous situation to protect myself. Seconds were very precious in this situation, to prevent being overpowered by the felon. If you move to pass bills that restrict constitutional rights to effective self-defense innocent law-abiding firearms owners will die.

Removing an under 21 year old's constitutional right to choose their own method of self-defense is a violation of that person's rights. Personally, I left home to make my own way at 17 years old. These younger adults are America's future. Why risk their safety in this way? Laws allow them to serve this country in the armed forces and go into battle to protect our freedom, yet our elected officials would say on home territory they should not legally do so. How hypocritical! Many have already served and have far more firearms expertise than adults over 21 will ever have. Do not support this Amendment.

To be absolutely clear, gun control legislation does not work, not even under threat of death. At this point in time, the actions taken by Oregon State legislators that have been introducing, supporting and voting in favor of "gun control" legislation are breaking the law. The United States of America is a sovereign nation. This is a fact supported by the Declaration of Independence. The US Constitution sets up the federal government. The Bill of Rights lists rights that belong to the people or to the states. The Second Amendment, or the right of the people to keep and bear arms is the people's right. Nowhere in the Second Amendment does the government have the privilege or the legal ability to limit or prevent people from owning arms. I strongly urge you as an elected official by the People to be true to your oath, and do not vote in support of this unconstitutional SB978 and it's Amendment.

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