Senate Bill 978

I am writing to oppose multiple elements of the amendment to 978. I am a law abiding citizen, a citizen of Oregon, and a responsible owner of firearms. I grew up with great memories of shooting with my father and enjoying the times together while hunting. I continue the tradition with my children. The fun we have shooting targets and walking through the woods will be fond memories for all of us. I am also committed to protecting my family, while in my home and when we travel. My children know firearms, know how to use them, and respect them. I am deeply troubled by this Senate Bill, the proposed amendment, and several other firearms bills that appear to be in development. My concerns are as follows:

1) MINIMUM AGE FOR FIREARM SALES: You are proposing to codify the voluntary action of private business to discriminate against individuals based on their age. There are some business entities that already practice this discrimination. Firearm supporters tolerate this action because we respect the right of private business to make such business decisions. We may not like it, but we support a free market. If my 18 year old wishes to purchase a firearm, I know of a business that will legally conduct the transaction. There is no purpose for this proposed law.

2) FIREARM STORAGE, LOSS OR THEFT REPORTING AND ACCESS BY MINORS, SECTION 6: Are you actually proposing to tell me what to do in my own home? I am a responsible firearm owner. My family knows how to use firearms. I have multiple family members in my home. I sleep with my firearm accessible to protect my family. When I am asleep, the firearm is not under my control. I AM SLEEPING. So, you want me to lock up my firearm, and if someone breaks into my home, and threatens my family by this act, you want to limit my ability to protect my family? You want me to lock it up while I sleep? I may have only seconds to act if I need to defend myself and my family. When I leave my home, my firearms are secured. Do you realize that a hacksaw or bolt cutter is very effective as "other means of opening a lock or container is readily available to a person the owner or possessor has not authorized to carry or control the firearm". Do you realize that a 5 foot crowbar can pop the door of a low end gun safe in under 2 minutes? Who wrote this? Did you even take the time to check it out on Youtube? Then you want to hold me liable because a criminal broke into my home, with a hacksaw and prybar, stole my personal property, and injured someone, while I made every effort to secure my firearm? Which, by the way, I already have such security in place because I am responsible. Who wrote this?

3) FIREARM STORAGE, LOSS OR THEFT REPORTING AND ACCESS BY MINORS, SECTION 7: In what scenario would this even apply? If I sell a gun to someone, I need to complete a background check, through a gun dealer, then I give the guy the firearm with a trigger lock on it, then HAND HIM THE KEY. If i transfer a firearm to a gunsmith to work on it, with a trigger lock on it, then HAND HIM THE KEY. If I loan a buddy a firearm while hunting then I just hand it to him (legally allowed). If I let a buddy fire my weapon at the shooting range then I just hand it to him (legally allowed).

4) FIREARM STORAGE, LOSS OR THEFT REPORTING AND ACCESS BY MINORS, SECTION 9: So if I take a minor to the shooting range, and the minor is under my direct supervision, and I transfer a firearm to the minor to shoot, then I have to provide the minor the firearm with a trigger lock, and then hand him the key to unlock the trigger lock to allow the minor to shoot while under my direct supervision? If I am with the minor at the shooting range, and I shoot 20 rounds, then decide to transfer the firearm to the minor to shoot, then do I need to mount the trigger lock, before handing the minor the firearm with the key? I am bound by Section 7 on this one right? I just want to make sure I am clear.

5) FIREARM STORAGE, LOSS OR THEFT REPORTING AND ACCESS BY MINORS, SECTION 10: What qualifies the Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules establishing the minimum specifications for trigger locks, cable locks and containers equipped with tamper-resistant locks? I think you should let the Building Codes Division take care of this, considering you are planning to mandate the design and function of an engineered and fabricated item found in my home.

6) FIREARM STORAGE, LOSS OR THEFT REPORTING AND ACCESS BY MINORS, SECTION 12: If I have a steel rack bolted to my closet wall, and the firearms stored in the rack are secured by a steel cable and lock, and I know a minor under 18 years old can gain access to the firearms by breaking through my bedroom window, and the minor carries a hacksaw and bolt cutter, and the minor steals my firearms during a weekend I am out of town, then will I be prosecuted? Does this storage satisfy the allowance provided in (3)(d)?

7) UNDETECTABLE AND UNTRACEABLE FIREARMS, SECTION 14: What will this section accomplish if placed into law? Please tell me how many Oregon crimes have been committed that involve an unfinished frame or receiver. Please provide some specific data so I can determine the relevance of this section. I honestly will be very grateful.

8) UNDETECTABLE AND UNTRACEABLE FIREARMS, SECTION 16: What will this section accomplish if placed into law? Please tell me how many Oregon crimes have been committed that involve a printed fully polymer firearm. Please provide some specific data so I can determine the relevance of this section. I honestly will be very grateful.

9) LOCAL AUTHORITY TO REGULATE FIREARMS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS, SECTION 26(2): This is the worst allowance ever codified in law. You seriously want to allow these institutions to have the legal ability to prohibit law abiding, concealed carry individuals, from having a firearm at a school? Why? CHL holders have safety training, are responsible, have no criminal history, and offer the real possibility of stopping a psycho nut job that might walk onto campus with a weapon with intent to do harm.

10) LOCAL AUTHORITY TO REGULATE FIREARMS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS, SECTION 27: Now you want to tell I am not able to carry my firearm in my vehicle for self defense as I drive around this great state, including dropping off my family, and picking them up from the airport? I am a responsible gun owner. I have a CHL. I have no criminal record. The airport has armed security that know how to act in a crisis situation. Here I come, a happy Oregonian, a responsible gun owner, a CHL holder, picking up my lovely wife at the airport after visiting her Mom in Nebraska...and you want to make me a criminal because I have my legal pistol, legally concealed, on my person, readily available available to protect us? Are you serious?

If you actually take the time to read my all my comments, then I am grateful. If you actually take the time to answer any of my concerns, or clarify any incorrect statement, then I am deeply grateful.

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