

Please accept these comments re- SB978.

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My first point for you to consider: how many predators and bullies reside outside this building, not far away? The state prison system, if any of you have inside knowledge, brings prisoner's families close, so they can visit. Some of those families have unstable and dangerous people; you can count on it.

So why are we citizens here? Because SB978 is a threat. It is a threat to every Oregonian that recognizes that for most of us, whether attacked by a bully or a predator, our only real hope, in dire circumstances, is to protect ourselves. After a crime is committed, police can collect the evidence, and perhaps catch whomever chose to attack us, but 100% of the time, our personal protection is in just one set of hands -- ours or **mine**. For most of us, a decision to arm ourselves is extremely sobering, and we train, we consider how to protect family and children, and all of the training available, especially CHL training, is conscientious and thorough. After my class, I chose NOT to carry. Carrying concealed is more responsibility than I am able to bear at this time in life. (I am 75).

Regarding CHL holders: The security force in this building -- the wonderful retired State Police that protect us -- they are armed. I'm willing to bet that some of them actually have TWO weapons. You may say, "but they are trained policemen..." May I remind you that trained policemen are sometimes strained policemen. The stress of police duty, plus-or-minus drugs can drive them to violent acts. California lost several police from a deranged cop several years ago. Policemen are people, just like CHL holders. Nationwide, CHL programs have an extremely good record of conscientious and proper conduct, besides saving lives and stopping crime. One thing I am sure of -- CHL holders enhance the security of every community they are part of. And for a woman under assault by an abuser, that CHL may save her life. How can you justify SB978's attacks on CHLs in light of women whose safety comes from one thing -- her gun?

When a mass killing makes headlines, we all hate it in our guts. It is especially horrible when children are attacked, likewise defenseless people in houses of worship. You want to DO something. I want to DO something. Getting a CHL is one way to DO something. Churches that I attend are protected by CHL holders. Those defenders need your support, not the attacks in this bill.

Christchurch once again proved: the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. We must arm good people, especially in schools.

I trust this committee is adult enough to figure out that more laws and more rules, mean nothing to an angry person intent on mayhem.

One other point:

Michael Bloomberg does not live here. Despite his contribution to your campaigns, you should give him the finger for the sake of Oregonians, i.e. -- our safety, freedom and rights.