

Chair Prozanski,

I oppose SB 978 and its entirely unrelated 'amendments' which I find personally offensive and insulting for their subterfuge.

These amendments are a disgusting and appalling betrayal of trust and a tremendous disservice to our children.

This gut and stuff bill tells me that my legislature has no respect, or concern, for me or my fellow Oregonians, and even less for our children.

This legislation is a disservice to our most vulnerable citizens, those who are in grave emotional despair, and those who are at risk of committing violent acts. It serves only to give the pretense of taking action, without actually doing anything to alleviate the very real pain and suffering of the citizens that this committee purports they are trying to protect.

Guns are as much a cause of gun violence as marriage is of domestic violence. Eradicating marriage would do nothing to reduce the incidence of domestic violence, just as limiting the rights of lawful gun owners will do nothing to reduce gun violence.

Suicide and mass school shootings are tragic acts of violence with two things in common – people making bad choices/committing crimes and people that are in such a state of misery and despair that they feel their only outlet is death – theirs or another's, or both. Guns are not the cause, deep pain and despair are. Yet these amendments do nothing to address that root problem in our society.

These amendments are akin to enacting a law that criminalizes women who wear revealing clothing and/or walk alone in strange places because their doing so might cause a person to decide to rape them.

This legislation seeks to turn victims into criminals, and self-empowered, law abiding citizens into victims.

This legislation suggests that if I am a victim of a crime – I become liable for that person's further bad choices/criminal actions should they use something they stole from me to harm another. The solution, according to these amendments, is to hobble my ability to protect myself.

I hear a lot of fear about what someone might do. Someone might use my gun to do something bad. Someone who lacks good judgment might kill themselves or someone else. Therefore, restrictions should be placed on me.

If this legislation becomes law, despite the fact that I hold a CHL, if I wish to go to the grocery store, thereby driving by a school, I must leave my gun locked up at home. When I arrive back home, if I walk in to discover an intruder waiting to rape me, I have no means of self-defense. Except, of course, to whip out my phone, call 911, and hope I'm not dead by the time someone arrives.

As a responsible adult, I believe that I and I alone am responsible for my safety, my well-being, and my protection. I believe that it is my duty as a citizen to hold myself accountable for my own actions, to develop my critical thinking skills, and to exercise good judgment.

I believe it is our duty, and our mandate, as a society to empower our children by teaching them the same.

Yet, instead, those who are for this legislation seek to disempower our youth. They argue that restricting the rights of gun owners is an imperative in order to protect our children from their own stupidity and lack of capacity for good judgment and wise decision making. If children are truly so incapable, then no child should be allowed to be anywhere without a competent adult guardian present.

I do not accept the argument that my own safety should be compromised just because we as a society wish to be derelict in our duty to our children. Our duty is to raise children to be empowered, critical thinking, wise decision-making adults who recognize that they, and only they, are responsible for their actions and that all people are held accountable for their own actions, and not the actions of others.

Instead of demystifying guns and teaching children how and when to safely utilize them, we teach children that guns, and not the people who wield them wrongly, are the real danger.

We do our children a disservice by not educating them.

We provide armed defenses for our borders, our politicians and our banks. Why not for our children? We have a duty to provide a safe educational environment. Instead, we provide the mass shooter with a guaranteed defenseless collection of that which we are supposed to treasure most of all – our children.

If we accept this legislation, we accept that those who abide by the law and choose to make wise decisions will have their rights determined by those who choose not to abide by the law and who choose to make bad decisions.

We live in a society where I can no longer purchase over the counter Sudafed because badly behaving people chose to use it to make drugs.

We live in a society where someone in excruciating pain who requests pain medication is considered to be a drug addict until proven otherwise, and therefore has great difficulty obtaining much needed medication, because there are those who have made bad decisions and become addicted to pain medication.

Instead of teaching children to look both ways before crossing the street, and therefore empower them with the knowledge that they are responsible for their own safety, we put up signs to tell cars to watch out for the kids playing in the street, and we teach children that they are not in control of their own safety.

Everywhere they turn, our children are being taught to be disempowered. They are being taught to let others do the thinking for them. They are being taught that they are too young to learn to be accountable for their decisions.

Instead of empowering our children, teaching them that they are capable of thinking for themselves, and providing them with critical thinking skills, we are teaching them to live in fear.

Instead of protecting our children, we set them up to be defenseless victims, and then we betray them further by lying to them and telling them that if we only pass this one piece of legislation, somehow,

they will be safer, somehow, when law abiding citizens lock up their guns, the criminals that would kill them won't be able to find a way to do so.

My heart breaks that there are so many young people in our state that are so utterly miserable and in such a state of incredible despair that they are making bad choices, committing heinous crimes, and committing violent acts. We owe it to them to seek out the root cause, to address the pain, and begin the process of alleviating it. Instead, we focus on gun legislation which achieves none of this.

Our children deserve better. They deserve honesty. They deserve for us to address the root cause of gun violence – which has nothing to do with guns. They deserve for us to teach them that it is their responsibility to make wise decisions, to develop critical thinking skills.

The members of this committee who would applaud themselves for a piece of legislation that takes steps to protect our children should be ashamed. If this legislation passes, we have taken just one more step in the opposite direction.

May our children forgive us though we do not deserve it.

Sincerely,

Julie Clubb

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10