

SB 978: Written Testimony of Jonathan Osborne

I am opposed to SB 978.

I always ask five questions when considering a bill. Below I will dissect SB 978 using this methodology.

MINIMUM AGE FOR FIREARM SALES

- 1) What is the goal of the bill? Discrimination against young adults.
- 2) Is the bill capable of achieving this goal? Yes.
- 3) What are some of the consequences of the bill? Young people often begin to live away from home between the ages of 18 and 21 and compose one of the most vulnerable segments of our society.
- 4) Do the benefits of the bill outweigh the costs? The goal, in this case, presents cost with no benefit.
- 5) Are there better ways to achieve the same goal? If you wish to discriminate against young adults, why not allow employers to set a minimum age limit on the people they can hire?

FIREARM STORAGE, LOSS OR THEFT REPORTING AND ACCESS BY MINORS

- 1) What is the goal of the bill? To reduce chances of unauthorized persons obtaining firearms, namely minors and criminals. It proposes to accomplish this by providing a disincentive to firearm owners.
- 2) Is the bill capable of achieving this goal? It might possibly have an impact. Mostly it seeks to punish firearm owners.
- 3) What are some of the consequences of the bill? Firearms will be less available for self-defense, especially in the case of a home invasion.
- 4) Do the benefits of the bill outweigh the costs? No. Self-defense is the premier human right and individuals and families need to decide what is best for them in their individual situations.
- 5) Are there better ways to achieve the same goal? Education is key. The primary role of educating children lies with parents. Try providing an incentive for gun safe ownership. While a resident might decide it best to have an unsecured gun in the home during occupancy, there is no reason to have firearms unsecured while no one is at home. This probably happens more when firearm owners have not yet purchased a safe.

I have heard a lot of talk about safe firearm storage. I do not think anyone is against safe storage. Keeping my small children safe from accidents and protecting my assets from theft motivate me to store my firearms securely. I think this goes for most firearm owners, but every

situation is different. It is not appropriate to append criminal penalties to personalized storage plans. Sufficient incentive already exists for parents to keep their children safe and their assets away from thieves.

UNDETECTABLE AND UNTRACEABLE FIREARMS

1) What is the goal of the bill? To regulate the sale of unfinished frames and receivers. Restricts undetectable firearms. The implied intent would be to reduce the availability of firearms for use in violent crimes.

2) Is the bill capable of achieving this goal? The bill would make punishment available to those caught breaking the law. Whether it would reduce the use of firearms in violent crime is uncertain, but likely it would have no effect.

3) What are some of the consequences of the bill? Unnecessary added process.

4) Do the benefits of the bill outweigh the costs? No.

5) Are there better ways to achieve the same goal? It is unnecessary to regulate unfinished frames and unserialized receivers, such as upper receivers. None of these components are functional. They should not be regulated. Undetectable and downloaded functional firearms are mostly myth; there is no real issue here. We should be concerned about bad behavior more than any material object.

PROHIBITED POSSESSION AND TRANSFER

1) What is the goal of the bill? This goes in hand with the two previous sections. See above.

2) Is the bill capable of achieving this goal? See above.

3) What are some of the consequences of the bill? See above.

4) Do the benefits of the bill outweigh the costs? See above.

5) Are there better ways to achieve the same goal? See above.

FIREARM INJURY REPORTING

1) What is the goal of the bill? The implicit goal is uncertain. This amendment would collect data but does not state how the data would be used.

2) Is the bill capable of achieving this goal? Yes, it provides for the collection of data.

3) What are some of the consequences of the bill? Added process and cost.

4) Do the benefits of the bill outweigh the costs? It remains to be seen.

5) Are there better ways to achieve the same goal? It is uncertain.

CONCEALED HANDGUN LICENSE FEES

1) What is the goal of the bill? The implicit intent is unclear. The amendment would increase fees for concealed handgun licensees.

2) Is the bill capable of achieving this goal? It is unclear.

3) What are some of the consequences of the bill? Self-defense would be less affordable and less available.

4) Do the benefits of the bill outweigh the costs? No.

5) Are there better ways to achieve the same goal? The goal or necessity is not clear.

LOCAL AUTHORITY TO REGULATE FIREARMS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

1) What is the goal of the bill? To restrict where a concealed handgun licensee may carry a concealed handgun.

2) Is the bill capable of achieving this goal? It does provide a disincentive in the form of punishment.

3) What are some of the consequences of the bill? Self-defense, the premier human right, would not be available to many who visit public buildings.

4) Do the benefits of the bill outweigh the costs? No. Research shows that citizens with a CHL are almost seven times less likely to commit crimes than police officers and many, many times less likely than the general public to commit crimes (https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2814691). Prohibiting armed police and security would do more to prevent crime than limiting citizens with a CHL.

5) Are there better ways to achieve the same goal? Gun-free zones encourage crime. Try eliminating gun-free zones in public places to reduce crime.

MUSEUM EXCEPTION FOR PRIVATE TRANSFER

1) What is the goal of the bill? To allow the transfer of firearms to a museum without requiring a background check.

2) Is the bill capable of achieving this goal? Yes.

3) What are some of the consequences of the bill? None of importance.

4) Do the benefits of the bill outweigh the costs? Yes.

5) Are there better ways to achieve the same goal? It seems adequate as proposed.