

Dear Legislators,

Why are you punishing law-abiding citizens for the acts of a few whackos? Your mandate to require all firearms to be stored locked, unless carried, will further undermine the fabric of this previously great nation.

There are often unintended consequences to actions taken. That is true for all of us. When I was in junior high school I was required to bring my gun to school to pass The Oregon Hunter's Safety course. This was in Eugene, at Woodrow Wilson Junior High. We all brought our guns to school so that the instructor could make certain we understood the safety principles of guns in general and our guns in particular.

Guns were not hidden away but we were taught to treat them with respect, as a result we did so, and still do. What you are proposing to mandate will further isolate kids from guns with the unintended consequence being that it will increase the appeal of firearms, to kids without giving them the appropriate knowledge base of how to safely handle them.

In addition it will make the firearms impossible to access in a dynamic critical incident. Take the case of the following Florida woman:

"A pregnant woman in Florida used an AR-15-style rifle Oct. 30 to defend her family from two masked men in a reported violent home invasion that left her husband with numerous injuries. The intruders apparently barged into the home at 9 p.m. and pointed guns at her husband. They pistol-whipped and beat him while grabbing his daughter and demanding money. The wife, eight months pregnant, peered out of a back bedroom. The intruders reportedly fired at her, causing her to retreat into the room. There, she grabbed an AR-15-style rifle and returned fire. She struck one of the intruders, causing both to flee. The injured intruder made it 200 feet out of the house before he died in a ditch. The other suspect was still at large." (baynews9.com, St. Petersburg, Fla., 11/1/2019)

Now, perhaps you feel that the death of the woman, her husband, her daughter and her unborn child would be a small price to pay to keep the firearm locked up tightly, so she couldn't access it quickly. I do not. Or perhaps you feel that the additional seconds (or minutes) that it would have taken her to find the key and unlock and load the firearm wouldn't have made a difference. I think having been fired it would increase the difficulty in utilizing her small motor skills required to unlock the firearm--assuming she could find the key, with intruders having already shot at her.

Perhaps you feel the perpetrators had a bad childhood, or weren't given the love they needed as youngsters--well, perhaps so. How many Oregonians are you willing to let die so you can lead uneducated voters to the altar of your re-election.

This is a flawed bill. Defeat it!

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