

To the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Mandatory gun lock up is an attack on law-abiding citizens' ability to protect themselves and is in direct conflict with human and constitutional rights.

Criminals and others who wish to do harm, maim, steal and kill will not abide by any law. So any thinking citizen will conclude that the Senate Judiciary Committee is working to make criminal acts a lot easier to commit, by directly hampering law-abiding citizens' access to a tool that allows for them to protect themselves and their love ones.

This Committee is only proving that they are entirely out of touch with reality, and have NEVER had a crime committed on their person!

If you have EVER had a criminal harm you or your family, you will never want to be in that situation ever again and would do whatever it takes to prevent it from EVER happening again.

I am Woman, and am speaking from personal experience. I was attacked by a criminal, provided assistance to law enforcement, and was integral in my perpetrator being sentenced to 7 years in prison. After he was released from prison, he has threatened to do harm me if he ever saw me again.

I do not live in fear, but I need to be able to EASILY access what will allow me to protect myself if the need ever arises. And I know law enforcement can only do so much firsthand.

There are laws in the books, if followed AND enforced, that would deter criminals from using guns to commit crimes. If former felons are caught with a gun, they should have the book thrown at them.

But instead, you want to punish a citizen who possess one legally, might have gotten it stolen by one, reports it to the authorities, and then make them liable for the acts that the criminal makes with it for years - Is beyond asinine!

One can only deduce that this Committee wants all citizens to be victimized, not only by criminals, but also by their own government - by enacting heavy consequences for a third party's criminal behavior.

This will not decrease crime when this tool is used as a weapon. You can only look at Great Britain and their ban on guns and steak knives - there are still attacks and murders when these tools are used as weapons to this day!

If the members of the Committee support this faulty and dangerous legislation concept that is contrary to the US Constitution, you will just prove to all law abiding Oregonians, irregardless of party affiliations, that you are inherently sexist, homophobic, racist, classist, ableist and ageist.

Sexist - because the 2nd amendment allows women of all backgrounds and family structure the ability to protect themselves by enabling them to protect their person, children and family. Women can be proactive in regards their safety by having a firearm! - the 2nd Amendment is inherently pro-feminist.

Homophobic - because it allows this marginalized population to protect themselves from crimes of Hate, eg Orlando Pulse shooting et al - the 2nd Amendment is inherently pro-LGBTQIA+.

Racist/ Classist - because minority and low-income populations are more likely to be victimized by a number of crimes (theft, murder, sexual assault) in lower income/ segregated neighborhoods (e.g. NE Portland) that have a huge gang or drug presence - the 2nd Amendment inherently promotes equality.

Ageist/ Ableist - because it leaves senior citizens, responsible young adults and the disabled vulnerable to criminals that wish to take advantage of their advanced age, youth and/or physical weakness. - the 2nd Amendment inherently promotes equality irregardless of physical condition OR age.

I hope is that my testimony will be read and written into the record, even if it doesn't fit your narrative.

I hope that partisan groupthink does not overtake this Committee that currently has a stranglehold on Salem, because it overrides all common sense and has a utter disregard for upholding the US Constitution, which is your first duty.

My hope is that this Committee will do the right thing and let this die as the Horrible Bill that directly punishes the law-abiding and rewards the lawless.

Shani Rivers  
An Independent in Washington County