

February 7, 2020

Oregon House Judiciary Committee

RE: Opposition to HB 4005

I believe House Bill 4005 is an unconstitutional infringement on my right to protect myself and my family. The Oregon Constitution, under Article I, Bill of Rights, Section 27, which you all took a sworn oath to protect, states: "The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defense of themselves, and the State, but the military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power." HB 4005, what I call the "Lock-up" bill would require gun owners to lock-up their guns when not in use, even in my own home. This requirement would render my guns useless in defense of myself and my family, in my most personal and sacred space which is that of my home, and is therefore, unconstitutional.

HB 4005 would further impose fines for gun owners found not to be in compliance and would most unjustly and unfairly subject gun owners to further liability if such guns were used in a crime or to commit bodily harm on another person. Make no mistake, even if a gun owner is in compliance with the law, when the gun is stolen, the provisions of this law would not prevent blood thirsty attorneys from trying to prove the gun owner is liable, subjecting the gun owner to the indignity, trauma, and expense of defending himself or herself in court. Making a gun owner liable for the criminal, willful, malicious, and negligent of another person that steals a gun from a car or a home that is not locked up or that is not reported stolen in a timely manner, per this Bill, represents mis-placed accountability, is absolutely unfair and unjust, and is an oppressive over-reach of government and a further infringement of my constitutional rights.

HB 4005 would further require gun owners to use locks or cases that are approved by the Oregon Health Authority, giving a deadline for this list of certified devices of July 1, 2020, when this law is to take effect, potentially and most likely, putting gun owners out of compliance immediately, since there is no time to allowed for manufacturing and distribution of such devices before the law is to take effect. This is just dumb.

I am mad as hell about HB 4005. I took a day off of work to write this letter in opposition to HB 4005 and to attend the hearing today. You can be assured that if this Bill passes through the State Legislature and is to become law, that it will be challenged in the courts, further wasting taxpayer dollars. HB 4005 is ill-conceived, mis-guided, unconstitutional, unfair, oppressive, an invasive over-reach of State Government, and a direct infringement on my constitutional rights and the right of the people to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and others. I urge you to dump HB 4005 in the trash and move on to more bi-partisan, less divisive legislation.



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