

Distinguished Oregon Legislators:

I wish to state my opposition to HB 2510. I have several reasons for my opposition.

First, as you will no doubt hear from many others testifying, a firearm that is locked up serves little purpose for self-defense. The need for self-defense can be an immediate need, and searching for a key to unlock a locker, or dialing the combination on a safe could mean the difference between defending ones self or becoming the victim of serious injury or even death. Living, as I do, in the Cascades near the north end of Klamath County, there is virtually no local law enforcement available. The local volunteer Fire Chief related to me that he found it necessary to call the Sheriff's Dept., and a unit responded Code 3 from Klamath Falls. The response took 1 hr. and 5 minutes. If I should require protection from Law Enforcement in these increasingly lawless times, the matter will be long resolved in one manner or another long before their arrival, and if my firearms are locked up it may not be resolved in my favor.

Second, there is a lot of carnivorous wildlife here, especially in the summer months, including mountain lions, bears, and wolves. There have been past reports of the mountain lions feeding on livestock and house pets. Last summer I exited my house to put out some squirrel food and encountered a large black bear about 10 ft. from my front porch. I think if you lived here you'd agree that keeping your firearms handy is a good idea.

My last objection relates to the U.S. Constitution's 2nd Amendment, the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. Nothing at all is said in the text about keeping them locked up, and by legislating that requirement you would be modifying the Amendment which specifies no such requirement.

I do understand the desire to keep firearms out of the hands of children. I feel that responsible parents who own firearms should provide proper training in the handling and safe use of their firearms for their children, and that requiring myself who has no children at home to lock up my firearms won't solve their problem. If such parents are unable to provide adequate training, nothing prevents them from locking up their firearms as they believe it necessary, but locking up my firearms won't help. I also think that it's a "given" that with enough time a burglar can defeat any storage container.

Thank you for your time in considering these points. I urge you to vote "NO" on HB 2510.

Respectfully,

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