

Dear Legislators,

I feel strong opposition to this bill. Where I live in rural lane county, my neighbors have expressed concern over law enforcement responses taking as long as 45 minutes in times of emergency and duress. I cannot even register my alarm system with the county and get a response from them. My second amendment rights are all that stand between me and a hostile home invader or wild life threat to my children. I own safes and keep my guns locked up from my children while teaching them safe handling practices. But to those families who cannot afford the luxury of safes, a chamber or trigger lock would put them at a great disadvantage in the production of their firearm to save their life or others. My fear is that while you can keep a child safe from handling a firearm in such a manner with a cable or trigger lock, it ultimately exposes the whole family to the dangers of not having their firearm readily accessible to use as is guaranteed to them by our constitutions. There are many places in Oregon much more rural than me who rely on these protections more hardily. Additionally, making an individual personally responsible for the theft of their own property is only incentivizing the bad guys to continue to victimize gun owners. Safes and locks are a symbol and with simple tools even the most robust locking systems can be overcome. This bill places undue burden on the law abiding citizen and provides criminals with more incentive to break the law. While children mishandling guns in the home is a tragedy, disarming and stripping people of their most basic form of protection is worse. There is already legislation in place for those individuals who cannot hold themselves accountable and keep their firearms in the right hands.