

Dear Oregon Legislature,

My name is Chad Kernutt and I speak to you today as a concerned citizen and urge you to vote NO on HB-2510. I am a resident of Albany, Oregon, I am a veteran of the U.S. Army and fought in the Iraq War, I am a husband and father of three children, and I love my family very much, they are my world. Most importantly I am a free man. I take very seriously my individual rights that were given to me not only by my God, but my Constitution and I consider myself very fortunate to be a citizen of this great nation. But there are things happening lately that are shaking me straight down to the core and I will no longer stay silent. The anti-second amendment/gun control elements in society with their very loud voices, bullying tactics, and big bucks from Michael Bloomberg and George Soros have been influencing congress at the state and national levels and a lot of you in Oregon's senate and house of representatives have forgotten the majority of your constituents and the oath you took to the Oregon and U.S. Constitutions. I disagree with every bill that's been brought forward having to do with guns that has been labeled gun safety bills but are really gun control bills. I disagree with your gun control bills because having armed responsible citizens who want to protect themselves, their family, and other citizens should be encouraged and not discouraged to carry everywhere they go. I see a lot of problematic and unconstitutional gun control bills being proposed right now but my biggest concern at this time is the bill attacking people with concealed carry licenses and the gun storage bill telling me how to store my weapons in my own house or car turning our homes and rigs into gun-free zones during the first 1-2 minutes of a crime being committed which does nothing but make people soft targets and defenseless against those who are not going to follow your laws no matter how many you come up with (they're called criminals for a reason). I depend on my second amendment rights as does my wife to keep us and our children safe. That means carrying concealed self-defense weapons in all public places and having them readily available for our defense at home and in our rigs.

Let's talk about some numbers. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) conducted a study of guns used in self-defense and based on the results found that guns were used defensively by victims about 3.6 times as often as they were used offensively by criminals. The average that guns were used in situations of self-defense over a 10-year period checked in at 2.46 million instances a year. The numbers are in for 2018 and the national average police response in a city for a high priority call is 5.7-11.1 minutes. That's a lot of time when you're going up against a bad guy with a gun. The average mass shooting is done within 3 minutes. That means that whatever is unfolding having to do with a bad guy who is armed is going to be over and done with by time the police show up. Whatever bad intentions and bad will that a criminal had in mind will have already been carried out and police will show up looking for the bad guy and trying to figure out what happened. Or you can arm yourself and always be prepared to defend yourself and those closest to you as well as those who cannot defend themselves. Depending on what you consider news and if you're watching or reading from a biased network with an agenda or not than you may or may not know that all over America good guys with guns are constantly stopping bad guys with guns and saving a lot of people from becoming victims which they would have been due to law enforcement not being there. Mass shooters and criminal minded people like soft targets, they like easy victims and will choose to target places where they don't expect resistance. Gun-free zones and residences where they don't expect to encounter an armed and ready homeowner are these exact places that criminals look for. What do those of you lawmakers think will happen to a homeowner when because of gun control laws gun owners have trigger locks on their weapons or they are locked up in a safe of some sort during the exact moment of a break in? Unless you happen to be right next to your gun during that exact moment and for a trigger lock be next to your gun with key in hand, you're going to be in real trouble. And because of these gun laws, if passed, they will render a law-abiding gun owner with a self-defense weapon a victim by circumstance. A responsible gun owner teaches their children weapons safety and their children will grow up respecting guns as tools and a means of self-defense where you don't play with a gun and you don't point it at something you don't intend to shoot. That's the way I was raised and that's the way most kids with responsible gun owning parents are raised. We already have laws on the books for parents who are negligent gun owners. My daddy had 3 sayings that I think would fit all sides of the equation with these gun laws that keep being proposed. 1. You can't fix stupid. 2. You have to stand for something or you will fall for anything. 3. Never miss a good opportunity to shut up when you know you're wrong. Your new proposed gun law will do nothing to stop criminals and stupid irresponsible people, it will just make victims and criminals out of responsible law-abiding gun owning citizens who just want to protect themselves and their families from the evils of this

world. You can't defend yourself when the second you're under attack your very means to self-defense is locked up and inaccessible to you in time to stop the threat.

I see every day the types of people heading into our prisons as well as the types of people being released back onto our streets and in most cases when it comes to violent offenders/predators, those who have no problem inflicting harm on others (Whether it's with rape, robbery, murder, or in the case of gang affiliated people continuing their gang lifestyle and everything that goes with it.), these types of people largely will not be rehabilitated and have a very high rate of recidivism and when released back into the community go on to continue their path of preying on law abiding citizens. To make it more difficult for innocent law-abiding civilians to defend themselves against these types of evil predators doesn't make any sense.

I would like to provide an example today of why it's important not to handicap/disarm law abiding citizens that is a true story from my life. When I was 13 years old and stayed home sick from school one day, a burglar broke in through our back door and entered the house. All of my fathers' guns were in a safe in the garage with the exception of one rifle and one loaded magazine that my father kept in the house not locked up and readily accessible for instant home and self-defense. My father was a responsible gun owner and parent and had trained me on how to properly use and respect guns. When this criminal broke into our house he was between me and the only route down to the door to the garage, I ran to my fathers room and I grabbed my fathers 30-06 hunting rifle from his closet and did exactly as I was taught. I put the magazine in and met the intruder chambering a round as he walked into my parents' bedroom. The intruder did a 180 degree turn and ran back out of the house. Who knows what would have happened that day if a trigger lock was on the rifle, or it was separated from the ammunition, or it was in the safe in the garage with the other weapons that I wouldn't have had access too? Maybe this intruder after I had seen his face and seeing a defenseless child would have done me harm, maybe not. Many criminals out there who rob people do harm their victims. I was fortunate that I was not put into a situation where I had to find out due to very dangerous gun laws that would have put my life at risk and made criminals out of my parents for teaching me how to defend myself when access to the safe and the exits in a different part of the house between me and the criminal wasn't an option.

For decades the democrats have pushed anti-gun legislation with the lie that each proposal will be the death nail to violent crime committed with firearms. Of course, we've all heard this mantra for decades. And for decades we've seen every anti-gun law that has passed fail to put a dent in crime, only to be followed by a new proposal that the gun-ban extremists insist will get the job done...this time. Supporters of the Second Amendment have always known that gun control laws have a fatal flaw; criminals don't obey the law. They ignore or circumvent the new laws just as readily as they ignore or circumvent the old ones. If they are willing to commit robbery, why would they not also be willing to commit armed robbery? If they are willing to commit assault, why would they not be willing to commit assault with a deadly weapon? And if they are willing to commit homicide, again, why would they not be willing to commit homicide using a firearm? One more law will not stop a violent criminal from being a violent criminal.

All of these anti-2nd amendment gun bills that continue to be pushed by Oregon liberals are an infringement on my constitutional rights granted to me by both the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions and I take very serious issue with them and the people trying to push them. I am worried by the encroachment that some of those in government our trying to bring forth on our rights. I hope my words do not fall on deaf ears for the sake of my family and loved ones and all of those innocent law-abiding citizens out there who have done nothing to deserve our Oregon state government putting them in this kind of position. I urge you all to think about the safety of your fellow Oregonians as well as their constitutional rights and vote NO on HB-2510. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Chad Kernutt
Albany, Oregon