Our allegedly virtuous representatives have provided an example to illustrate why people say “the road to hell is paved with good intentions.” Elected eager-beavers of Oregon seek to dam our rights to solve our social problems, as if it’s a good idea that nobody has ever tried before. Don't you realize, representatives, that you're putting a dam on the wrong river? The component making adults responsible for actions of minors with firearms makes sense, but the rest is not necessary and is over-reaching the power of any governmental body to restrict the bearing of arms. People already are liable for their actions. Members of the legislature, if someone steals your unlocked SUV to run over someone else, should you be liable? Or isn’t the thief the true transgressor, with the murderous intent? HB2510 authors have good intentions, but seek to do the wrong thing out of fear.

Rather than targeting criminals for their activity, and attempting to do the hard work of resolving social problems that lead to violence, HB2510 exploits tragedies in our community as an excuse to target those who bear arms. HB2510 seeks to impose a detailed code of restrictions to regulate and limit any citizen who bears arms. The clear outcome is to make bearers of arms responsible for the actions of thieves, yet also make it virtually impossible to store arms for self-defense. Even the notion that the OHA can dictate what is acceptable in terms of locks is deeply problematic. The fear-addled sponsors of this bill have decided to lay both blame and burden upon all of the non-violent people who are not criminals. There is no illusion that the group of people who bear arms, peaceful and productive members of society, are being targeted because of their group membership – a class of people who exercise a protected right. I will leave and oppose the Democratic party in Oregon for the rest of my life if this bill is passed. The language of this bill represents a blatant systemic effort specifically aimed at suppressing rights of citizens, rights long-established as those not to be infringed under the highest law of the United States.

We vulnerable poor, in this community, are also legal bearers of arms! When tragedies occur, do legislators not care that this nonsense will further criminalize already poor people who have trouble paying our medical bills, food, rent, or electricity? And under HB2510, will my grandma become a criminal if a thief steals her revolver and uses it to rob a convenience store? Absolutely.

Further, do the proponents of HB2510 even know what they are doing? Do they not realize that this will suppress the right to bear arms and also not be effective in stopping crimes such as the listed tragedies? The truth is that they do not actually have conclusive scientific data to establish that HB2510 will work, and turning tragedies into an opportunity to suppress citizens’ second amendment rights will be counterproductive. HB2510 is an opportunistic measure to prevent only very few crimes yet also scapegoat and impose limitations on all bearers of arms by citizens of the United States, a right protected by the second amendment. Many of us opposed draconian measures of many Republicans in the past, and we should oppose this even more vigorously. The social science data only demonstrates correlations, and everyone knows correlation isn't causation. Authors of HB2510 pontificate as to the outcome of a social experiment before it has yet been foisted upon us.

Will the proponents of HB2510 cease their foolish scapegoating of legal arms-bearers and deal with genuinely difficult issues, such as further integrating community services, expanding behavioral health services and reverse the long-term decline in public and community health funding? Can our communities in Oregon have economic support to recover from the pandemic? Can our legislators not seek to suppress our fundamental rights? I hope. Please, do not move forward with this bill.