

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to respectfully request that you not send HB 2510 out of committee. Please do not allow this bill to proceed any further. HB 2510 suffers from fatal flaws, including intolerance, making our fellow Oregonians less safe, enshrining intrusive discrimination into Oregon law, and not sufficiently respecting the diversity of Oregonian interests in the protection of themselves and others.

Governmental regulation of what an Oregonian does within the confines of his or her home should not be instituted lightly. Not only is this bill demanding action within the sanctity of our own homes that is contrary to legitimate interests (protection of oneself and one's family), but it attempts to implement "strict" liability. Implementation of strict liability in the law is rare. Usually, the law would see the criminal actions of someone else (including a thief or armed robber) as an intervening event that would relieve the victim of liability. The effect of this bill would be to victimize the actual crime victim twice, first by the criminal during the actual crime, and secondly by you making the victim "strictly" liable for the actions of someone who deliberately disregarded criminal laws in the first place.

Making a crime victim liable for years after the criminal act is absurd. Even if you legitimately thought that strict liability was a good idea, a multi-year window is unreasonable on its face. Both State and Federal laws are supposed to be based on the idea of rationality and reasonableness, so someone can accurately predict the consequences if they are in violation. No one (not you or any other governmental official) can accurately predict what will happen with a stolen firearm during a multi-year period after its theft. Why then would you make a private citizen who becomes a crime victim then strictly liable for events that no one can reasonably foresee?

You have an obligation to protect future generations from illegal and misguided efforts at withdrawing legal protections from fellow Oregonians. Supporters of this bill have demonized fellow Oregonians merely because they have different interests (firearms and personal protection), and are actively seeking to discriminate against them using the threat of the legal system. Such intolerance and aggressive disenfranchisement is contrary to the core values that should be at the heart of Oregon government.

Please withdraw your support for HB 2510. I am showing respect for you by taking the time to write this message and assuming certain virtuous aspects of your character. Now, I ask that you validate my respectful assumption by removing your support. Just because a small, vocal sub-group of the population wants to intolerantly attack and disadvantage their fellow Oregonians does not mean that you should bow to their wishes.

You should use your energy and efforts to protect the sanctity of our homes, not violate it in such a draconian manner. Make criminal laws for the theft of firearms stronger and more obvious, but please do not focus your energies on penalizing crime victims.

Sincerely,

Byron Hadley
Salem, Oregon