

Please do not support HB 2510!

Regarding HB 2510, I understand perspective that responsible gun owners protect and secure their guns from unauthorized access. However, this bill causes very atrocious side effects.

A gun in a safe and not available for my family to use when needed means my family's safety is in jeopardy. A simple search of the web will show that countless bad guys were stopped because people in the home had the ability to defend themselves. Not because the police showed up, but because the law-abiding citizen in the home had the ability to protect themselves.

I have a beautiful 16 YO daughter. I live in a rural area. Police response cannot be counted on. I am retired military and have trained my children in gun safety. My 16 YO daughter is very capable of safe firearm handling. This bill effectively makes me a bad guy if she has access to a firearm in my home – a firearm she could use to stop her from being raped, harmed, or worse if an intruder enters my home! This is simply wrong. Whomever supports such a bill has not thought about the innocence of my daughter; if they have, they simply don't care because of their lust for anti-gun efforts.

Youth suicide is tragic. I hate to even go to statistics regarding this, but the bill forces it. It shows a number of suicides by firearm for youth under 18. Over the years, I have known hundreds of families with children who have access to firearms to protect themselves, to target shoot and to hunt and none of them committed suicide because they had access to a gun. While I did not personally know youth who committed suicide, I do know of youth who have done so by knife, hanging, overdose, and yes, firearms. But categorically making me a bad guy because of this when all I want is for my youth daughter to have access to protect herself is just a wrong.

This bill focuses on trying to make me a bad guy and not the guy who breaks into my home. In my home, my firearms, are safe and secure. Not because I keep them in a safe, but because they are in my home with a front door that is shut locked when I'm away and often locked when I'm home. This is my private residence and is not to be entered by unauthorized people. Everything in my home is off limits to criminals. If they break in, they are breaking the law. Yet this bill intends to make me the bade guy when the criminal is not even supposed to be there in the first place. Holding me responsible for a criminal's activities is clearly lunatic politics. My belongings, including my firearms, are in my secure home. This is the sanctity of owning my own home. Perhaps we should figure out laws that make it a deterrent for bad people to break into homes.

For people who can't afford a safe, but deserve the protection a firearm provides, what are they supposed to do, get rid of it? Affording it a safe is a challenge for many people who live in today's reality. Furthermore, who would even consider a law that has parts of it that are grounded in "wait and see?" The OHA could come up with some level of definition that none of us can meet and there would be nothing we could do about it.

This bill is stepping out of bounds in my God given right to protect my family and my family members to exercise their same right which should not be jeopardized regardless of whether my youngest daughter is 16 or my oldest daughter is 25. This is a bad bill – it makes me the bad guy and it takes away my family's right and ability to protect itself. Please do not support this bill.