

House Bill 2510 Testimony

Let's ask the obvious "elephant in the room" question. What on earth does a bill designed to infringe on a citizen's rights under both the United States and State of Oregon Constitution have to with the House Health Committee? Maybe the first thing that requires clarification is the definition of the word infringe. Perhaps there is confusion as to its meaning. Infringe – actively break the terms of (a law, agreement, etc.); act so as to limit or undermine (something); encroach on. Let's take it a step further. Encroach suggests gradual or stealthy entrance upon another's territory or usurpation of another's rights (as in Constitutional rights).

The two-year liability clause leads to questions concerning the sponsors' understanding of real-life outside pieces of paper. Do members of this legislative body honestly think any of these locking devices are going to prevent removing them when, if the goal is to keep a student from accessing the weapon, they wouldn't be able to search YouTube for a "How To" video on the subject? Next, let's assume the lock was defeated and the weapon is stolen by a criminal instead of a student bent on revenge against his school. Let's also assume the weapon was later recovered from the perpetrator at the scene of a murder. Who has the burden of proof that it was properly secured at the time of theft? If the murderer says it wasn't, is the state going to take his or her word for it? Is there now going to be a requirement to have a date/time-stamped video as proof that it was secured at the time of its theft?

The Oregon Health Authority has been tasked with design standards for containers, trigger locks, and cable locks. If it is this legislature's learned opinion that the Oregon Health Authority possesses the expertise and professional qualifications to carry out this task, then when is the Oregon State Police going to start selling supplemental health insurance coverage? It would appear they have as much experience in the area of health insurance as the Oregon Health Authority does in designing firearm locks and storage containers.

As usual, the Second Amendment is under attack because attacking it is a perennial favorite with Democrats and has been for years. What does that say about the First or Fourth Amendment? How long will it be before the political winds blow farther to the left, and this august body begins to whittle away at those amendments?

James Purvine
Eugene, Oregon