

March 11, 2021

Thank you committee members for your time,

My name is Farrah Chaichi. I am a lifelong Washington County resident, and Democrat since I could register. I am also a gun owner. As someone who's dealt with suicidal ideation since middle school I appreciate the efforts to mitigate the impacts of severe depression and distress. In general I am supportive of the idea that guns should be stored safely. But I am not supportive of HB 2510 in its current form, just as I and other gun owning Democrats did not support the 2020 version. I am very disappointed to see that it has not been updated to reflect the concerns laid out in the testimony from Michael Smith, chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon's Gun Owners Caucus, who has been in contact with legislators on this issue since the 2020 bill to work out these concerns.

The most pressing issue for me is that the regulations are not defined by this bill, instead it is being sent to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to implement. But OHA is not a regulatory agency whose primary focus and breadth of knowledge and expertise extends to firearms. While I can appreciate they will be in consultation with state police, they are ultimately the deciding entity and can overrule the input of the state police. As with all regulatory agencies, they are unelected, not accountable to the people, and have less transparency. Should they implement regulatory language that is cost restrictive for those of us who are living paycheck to paycheck, what is our redress? You are our representatives, you should be defining the parameters.

I am also skeptical of the idea that strict liability will not penalize responsible gun owners, despite the intent. Many gun owners, myself included, live in childless apartments where a gun room or safe is not necessary, practical, nor affordable, leaving us with the cable or lock option. How can I prove that my gun was locked if someone stole it and cut the lock? Am I supposed to take a picture of the lock on with a picture of the daily paper in frame every day? Will the court just take my word for it that it was locked? That is not made clear in the bill and leads me to believe that determination of whether a person had properly secured their firearm could be left up to a judge or jury, which is susceptible to bias which brings a whole host of additional concerns regarding bias in our judicial system.

I think the intent here is well meaning but, as with last year, the implementation needs work. I respectfully request that further amendments be made before passing this bill.

Thank you,

Farrah Chaichi