

Why HB 2543 should be rejected.

I would like to thank the Chairperson and Committee members for allowing individual input and opinion as respects HB 2543. In consideration of the need to accommodate as much testimony as possible, I've prepared a written statement touching upon what I feel are important aspects of the bill.

In determining my remarks I've tried to put them in perspective as respects our current times. Therefore, a little history:

There can be no question that 2020 was a tumultuous year, leaving people filled with uncertainty and fear; these two emotions were magnified enormously by the impact of the COVID19 pandemic and the resulting economic devastation.

Democratic Leadership determined that it was critical that a new message be promoted to the American people. That message had to be positive, clear and achievable so that it would resonate with American voters. The statement that ultimately proposed and adopted was Build Back Better.

The essence of this slogan implied Innovation, the Rapid delivery of new goods and services and Raising standards of Performance.

Was the message convincing? The Democratic Party discovered that the slogan didn't just represent the Party's goals; it signaled a return to American values that crossed political boundaries!

The result, Nationally, it resulted in the achievement of Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress and the Executive Branch. How do you, as our Representatives, now put this momentum to work supporting the commitment to Build Back Better.

Oregon has always had a positive approach to an individual desire to provide for their own and family self-defense. Oregon is a Shall Issue state – a clear recognition of the importance of the right to self-defense. This position is further supported by the commitment to complete the important and necessary background check within a very reasonable period of time (three business days from date of purchase) and, failing that standard, of granting possession to insure personal protection. Even in the face of self-imposed restrictions, due to COVID19, the above system has continued to function, according to the clear rules set out.

If we now apply our NEW Standard of Build Back Better, how does the proposed HB2543 meet any of implied innovation, increased delivery of goods and services and Raised standards.

Shall issue seems to become instead when we get to it.

The authority of the OSP to arbitrarily delay reduces the importance, even critical ability, to provide self defense protection to the individual via possession of their property does not seem to increase the speed or availability of an essential service and certainly does NOT meet the test of Raising standards.

The current rules provide certainty of delivery, a reasonable speed for achieving the goal and holds OSP to a standard that can be met – and to their credit to date, has been achieved more often than not.

On the face of it would seem HB2543 is a misstep in the wrong direction and away from meeting the expectations found within Build Back Better. The delays that are inherent in the Bill, as presented, replace Certainty with Uncertainty, Confidence, by possessing the ability for self-defense, with FEAR of being a victim of delay.

The purpose of Build Back Better was to replace Uncertainty and Fear – NOT reimpose it. Do we really want our first legislative proposal to be an obvious repudiation of Build Back Better just as this message has gained the people's hope.

We respectfully suggest that HB2543, as currently submitted, should be rejected and the current regulations maintained.

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