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Testimony in opposition to SB 217.

Senate Bill 217 seeks to define “statutory counterpart” using the following terminology:

(11) “Statutory counterpart” means a statute establishing a crime in another jurisdiction that has the same use, role or characteristics as an identified Oregon statute, notwithstanding differences in substantive scope between the statutes. The other jurisdiction’s statute need not be the same or nearly the same as the identified Oregon statute to be considered a statutory counterpart.

It is very concerning that Oregon would consider laws in other states that are not even “nearly the same” as our own when considering criminal penalties and charges for Oregonians.

Some Oregon statutes contain extreme and onerous restrictions on a person’s Second Amendment rights when convicted of offenses that may be unfounded.

Considering other states’ laws that are even more poorly written than our own will almost certainly create unacceptable liabilities for Oregonians.

We urge the committee to amend SB 217 to contain more precise and more carefully considered language.

Kevin Starrett
Executive Director.