

Submitter: Keith LaHaie  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2005

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Please reject this damaging and clearly unconstitutional bill and make sure that it doesn't make it out of Committee.

Unsurprisingly, our soft-on-crime Legislature, who can't seem to solve any real crime problems, is again intent on making felons out of law abiding Oregon gun owners. Dangerous criminals are being turned out of our jails and prisons, and our street are flooded with the mentally ill and drug addicted, which further endangers the population. So in response, you attack firearms hobbyists? Wow. This bill, coupled with the many others currently on the docket in this Legislative session make it clear that our state's political class wants the law abiding disarmed and unable to protect themselves from the real crime epidemic in this state. "Death by a thousand cuts," that's for sure.

Much like the term "assault weapon," the term "ghost gun" is bandied about as a gun control bogeyman, with the intention of frightening the uninformed public. This is evident from reading the testimony in support of this unconstitutional proposal. Nearly all of those in support state – without evidence - that "this bill will save lives." HB 2005 appears to be a clear violation of the Second Amendment and further, runs counter to the Supreme Court's Bruen decision. It also seems to constitute an unlawful taking (as all homemade firearms are currently legal in Oregon), and seems to establish an illegal, defacto gun registry.

The legacy media shouts about the "growing epidemic" of "ghost guns" being used in crimes, but there are few stories of actual crimes being committed with "ghost guns" or other homemade firearms. Portraying homemade guns as a "threat" to the American people is a fabrication, which seems to be having its intended effect.

Do the bill's sponsors really think that a criminal is going to invest in the parts and the tooling required to build a functioning firearm when they can just purchase one on the black market? There are reports that "ghost guns" can be "assembled in less than 30 minutes," which is a ridiculous exaggeration. How prevalent do you really think this is? Chances are that criminals will choose to commit crimes using stolen guns, those obtained through straw purchases, or from unscrupulous gun dealers. The premise that this bill will do anything to prevent criminals from obtaining guns is laughable. It will only harm law-abiding Oregon citizens.

The great preponderance of homemade guns are purchased and assembled by hobbyists who most likely lawfully own other guns. They are clearly in common, lawful usage. Therefore, what will this bill accomplish other than to make those hobbyists into criminals?

HB 2005, if it becomes law will be fought in the courts at great expense to the citizens of Oregon, and it will most likely be overturned on precedent.

Enforce laws that are already on the books. Punish criminals and those who provide guns to them. Gun crime is not caused by guns, but by the people that use them unlawfully. That's where the focus should be.