

Tim LeMaster  
HB 2006 Testimony

I oppose HB 2006.

It is especially ridiculous for the legislature to consider this in a time when the government is literally dismissing gun possession crimes due to a lack of funding for defense attorneys.

“The next most common primary charge was for weapon crimes, which accounted for 16% of dismissed felonies, while person crimes, which include assault and robbery, accounted for 12%.”

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/oregon-public-defender-shortage-300-cases-dismissed-93871068>

The legislature needs to triage and prioritize with a sane minded reality check on what is actually happening in Oregon and in the high violence areas such as Portland metro. How about putting energy and priority into ensuring current laws that can prevent violence be carried out and enforced before making up new laws that will create a new criminal class of people simply because of their age.

The violence reduction priority of the state should be ensuring funding of public defense attorneys, increased police presence in high crime areas, addressing fundamental social issues that create the climate of violence in the first place.

Not creating a new demographic of possible gun law violators. Especially since there is no grandfathering of current owners between ages 18 and 21.

The government recognizes people as being adults at 18, capable and accountable for their own decisions. There would be merit to this bill if classifying everyone under 21 also applied to entering into contracts, taxation, school loans, and more. But that is not the case. We widely regard people as adults when they become 18 and the civil right to self-defense should not be exempted from 18 as adulthood. If indeed the state legislators believe 18-21 year olds are not of mind to own and operate firearms they should also disallow this age group from entering the national guard. A service that often requires them to carry and operate firearms with little to no supervision.

Portland is a high violent crime city that has been increasing the last three years. This law will take away the ability for adults between 18 and 21 of all ages and demographics the ability to defend themselves in the midst of this increase in violence.

We are in a time where violent perpetrators are targeting people due to their gender, race, sexual orientation etc. This law will literally make it a crime for young adults in these minority communities to defend themselves with “The Great Equalizer”, a firearm of their choosing.

Especially for simply possessing that firearm.

As it stands those 18-21 year olds who are inclined to perpetrate gun violence, homicide, are not going to have an epiphany to not commit that heinous violence simply because there is a policy in place that they are not allowed to own a gun.

Thank you,  
Tim LeMaster

