

Submitter: Dan Phillips
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2005

I strongly oppose HB 2005. I wanted to start by stating this: let's recognize as firearm and non firearm owners and as Oregonians - we all want to limit the number of gun related deaths.

I worry that we are introducing more gun control bills at a time when current laws are not being utilized. Case and point are the astounding number of felon in possession of a firearm cases out of Portland, and the propensity of our DA in Portland to hold less and less perpetrators accountable. The net result of not perusing those cases has been a flood of shooters to operate with impunity on the streets. Murder rates among young black men have skyrocketed yet those laws on the books that are designed to help prevent violent individuals from possessing firearms seem largely ignored. Why?

Firearms should be treated with reverence and respect. They are fascinating to those that collect and shoot them.

The unintended consequence of this bill will make thousands of Oregonians instant criminals with it's passage. These are good, law abiding folks that have built firearms from kits to add to their collection and learn about the inner workings of a gun. People building these kits to then make firearms to sell are breaking federal laws already on the books. Convicted criminals carrying these guns are breaking state laws already on the books.

There are bi-partisan bills that would help with firearms safety in Oregon right now. HB3060 would offer tax credits for purchasing gun safes, encouraging gun safety. I was intrigued enough by the bill that I reached out to the Utah DHHS that implemented something similar. They offered "coupons" which didn't work out as well (was rife with fraud, with one receipt being used 5 times). The tax credit system would be a better workaround to the fraud problem and I'm optimistic it will pass and be successful.

We have all the sticks to stop gun violence on the books right now, it's time to try some carrots and encourage gun safety. Pass HB3060 - Oppose HB2005.

Thank you,

I would be happy to rephrase the letter for you. Here's my attempt:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2005. As firearm and non-firearm owners, and as Oregonians, we all share the desire to reduce the number of gun-related deaths.

However, I am concerned that introducing more gun control bills at this time when current laws are not being fully enforced may not be effective. For example, there

have been a large number of cases of felons possessing firearms in Portland, and unfortunately, the DA's office has been holding fewer and fewer perpetrators accountable, resulting in a surge of shootings on the streets. Laws designed to prevent violent individuals from possessing firearms seem to be largely ignored. This has led to an increase in murder rates, especially among young black men.

I believe that firearms should be treated with reverence and respect, and that they can be fascinating to collectors and shooters. However, I am worried that the unintended consequence of this bill would be to turn many law-abiding Oregonians into instant criminals. Many of these individuals have built firearms from kits to add to their collection and to learn about how guns work. Those who build these kits to sell firearms are already breaking federal laws, and convicted criminals carrying these guns are already breaking state laws.

Instead of more sticks to stop gun violence, I think it's time to try some carrots and encourage gun safety. There are bi-partisan bills such as HB3060, which would offer tax credits for purchasing gun safes, that could help with firearms safety in Oregon right now. I have been impressed with the success of similar programs implemented by the Utah DHHS. Although coupon-based systems were rife with fraud, the tax credit system would be a better solution to this problem. I am optimistic that HB3060 will pass and be successful.

In summary, I urge you to oppose HB 2005 and to support bills like HB3060, which promote gun safety