

Submitter: Jerald Carlson
On Behalf Of: Americans
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB348

I freely admit that I am a patriot – a firm believer in our Constitution – a document written in blood by our forefathers – rebels who risked their lives and wealth to rid our country of tyranny. No wonder they especially cherished the First and Second Amendments to our Constitution.

My unwavering belief in our Constitution, and the concept of “freedom,” resulted in my enlisting in the military at the age of 17 (almost 18), just days after graduating from high school. During this first (of many) stints in the military, I served as a paratrooper and infantryman in Vietnam at the tender age of 18. When I returned to civilian life, I wasn’t quite 20 years of age. Thus... I can’t imagine why some anti-constitutional folks in our fine State would deprive a war veteran (under the age of 21) from owning/possessing a firearm. Frankly, it boggles my mind to realize that we have so many communists among us who would continually try to dismantle our solid Constitution, one brick at a time, with the likes of Measure 114, and Senate Bills 348 and 3390. Of course, none of these bills do anything to thwart crime. In reality, they increase crime by making law-abiding citizens victims of crimes; after all, criminals, by definition, break the law. Hello?

I served in the military in various capacities from 1970 to 2005. My civilian career included teaching high school and college biology. After 911, as a Green Beret in the National Guard, I reenlisted, and at the not-so-tender age of 50, I was mobilized. I had to leave my family and my students to spend a year on Active Duty, primarily in Kuwait and then Iraq for the invasion. I was more than happy to serve my country again in this capacity – why? ...because I am a patriot and believe in our Constitution, particularly

“..., the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

If one were to study the Federalist Papers, it would be readily apparent that having the civilian population armed was primarily to defend against tyranny. Tyrants (some politicians) don’t like this part of the Constitution, because it ultimately keeps a check on their personal power – power that ultimately corrupts.

So I ask you this: Are you a patriot? Do you believe in the Constitution and its Bill of Rights? Did you take an oath (as I did) to uphold the Constitution? Do you believe in Freedom? Or... are you a card-carrying, power-hungry, communistic tyrant? Study history, and the context of what our rebellious forefathers sacrificed, and then make a constitutionally sound decision. Guns, high-capacity magazines, knives, baseball bats, and even animal fat, are not murderers – only people have the capacity to murder. Our politicians need to consider spending time and money by trying to solve the growing drug and psychological problems plaguing a small segment of our population. As an Oregon resident for over 7 decades, I ask that you do the right

thing – leave our guns (and Constitutional rights) alone! Sincerely, Jerry Carlson