

Oregon Legislative Assembly
Public hearing 3/27/2023
SB348

Distinguished members of the assembly,

I am asking on behalf of myself and my neighbors the Bill known as “Reduction of Gun Violence Act.” (SB 348) receive a “no” vote from all members of the assembly. This bill is the progeny of an extremely poorly written ballot measure (114). The “fixes” suggested by our distinguished assembly in Salem are no better, in some cases worse. There is nothing in this bill that can be shown to stop “gun violence”; however this bill is guaranteed to keep those who have low income from being able to purchase firearms legally in this state.

The Bill will have an inequitable effect on persons of color, as there is nothing to prevent selective arbitrary and capricious non-approval of “permit to purchase”.

The bill will prevent those who are in peril from domestic abusers from obtaining an important means of self defense. Non contact orders and Restraining orders are pieces of paper. Court orders cannot and demonstrably do not stop persons intent on violence. A gun in the hands of an intended victim has been shown to stop violence with far greater frequency than guns are used in violent crime. Depending on the study, armed, intended victims and bystanders stop violent crime between 500,000 and 2.5 million times each year. Far outstripping the 46,000 gun deaths in 2021, the last year statistic are available.

This bill is slightly modified version of measure 114, which is currently tied up in various courts, also which the state of Oregon is “defending” at significant expense to taxpayer resources. There is no reason for any rational person to believe this bill will be similarly tied up in court, adding more expense to the taxpaying public. Furthermore certain provisions of this bill have already been litigated and found to be in violation of the U.S. Constitution. There is no legitimate rationale to push a bill that has already been struck (in part) by the courts.

SB 348 is unjust, inequitable and unnecessary. SB 348 places a burden upon the citizenry that the State’s enumerated powers do not permit. SB 348 does not prevent any “gun violence”, nor can it be shown to in any specific fashion.

Vote no.

Respectfully,
Patrick R Millius
Seaside Or.