

Submitter: Chad Kernutt  
On Behalf Of: WE THE PEOPLE  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB348

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Chad Kernutt, I'm a U.S. Army veteran, a husband and father of 3. With all the talk of "common sense gun control" and talks on age bans for adults for guns, assault weapons bans which are really just semi-auto rifle bans, large magazine bans (which encompass most standard size magazines for pistols), and now these permits to own any gun at all, I feel it's very important to look at why the 2nd amendment was created and installed in the constitution by the founders. The 2nd amendment is much more than self defense, first and foremost it's about defending ourselves from a tyrannical government. The government uses M-4's which are semi-auto and 3 round burst optioned and not fully automatic, those would be squad machine guns such as the M-240 and M-249. You have to have the ability to go toe to toe with the government if it descended into tyranny requiring a revolutionary force of civilians and 5-10 round mags from a bolt action rifle versus 30 round mags from a semiautomatic or 3 round burst rifle just won't cut it.

The founders and framers of the constitution made the second amendment so that the citizens of America could protect themselves against all matters of threats from at home and out in the public to the most notable of the threats discussed and given the most emphasis which was a tyrannical federal government and it's regular federal army that it would use against the the civilian populace. The framers of the constitution also discussed the need for able bodied military aged civilians to be able to possess the common arms of regular soldiers in the federal government. That common arm is the M-4 rifle. The AR-15 rifle is the semi-auto only version of the M-4. Also important to note is that adults in this country are 18 years of age and the bulk of the military today is comprised of adults between the ages of 17 and 21.

Saturation media coverage of terrifying events like mass shootings can leave some people with the impression that these things occur far more often than they do. FBI data from 2020 shows us that most gun-related deaths (54% in 2020) are suicides. Mass shooting casualties (3 or more shot) are less than 1% of all gun deaths, 96% of gun deaths in america each year come from handguns, 2nd highest amount of gun deaths came from shotguns, rifles were the least major cause of gun deaths. Out of 17,813 reported homicides in 2020 rifles only accounted for 455 homicides, meanwhile there was 662 homicides from personal weapons (described as hands, fists, and feet). These data points are cold comfort to those mourning the recent shooting victims in Uvalde and elsewhere but they ought to inform any public policy response under consideration.

Gun control constitutionally can not and will not ever be the answer but instead the focus should be on properly funded and staffed mental health services and expanded background checks that include juvenile records and school disciplinary/mental health counseling records. This will be the most effective way to curb mentally ill and unstable/violent people from getting legal access to purchase guns. And for illegally possessed guns and gun violence prevention in general today we need prosecutors offices to stop giving slaps on the wrists to criminals/felons with guns turning them right back out onto the streets and prosecute these criminals with the laws in the books. Please vote NO on SB-348. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chad Kernutt

Albany, Oregon

IN GOD WE TRUST