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On Behalf Of:
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Measure: SB348

Senate Bill 348

Today we all hear about and sometimes see the increased violence our society is struggling with. People tend to blame someone else, many want to add legislation to fix the problem, but violence has continued and grown in its frequency. We are living in a scary time. Legislation is not fixing the problem. Specifically anti-gun legislation is not working. What seems to be helping in Portland is people are talking about responsibility, taking ownership for the good and bad. Let's pay attention to this fledgling trend.

If we look back to the days when I went to high school, we the kids never thought of shooting fellow students. Some of us would have a rifle in the gun rack of the truck we drove to go hunting after school. Our parents had taught us gun safety and talked about right and wrong. Parents punished their children if they miss stepped. Adults reminded other adults of things like don't toss your garbage on the ground, put it in a trash can. We need our elected leaders to remind us that we adults, parents, children need to be responsible for what we do and do not do. There will be push back on this and it takes time to change habits, but we must start helping each other improve.

My specific ask of you is: please remember that we can't legislate our way out of this mess. Our state is divided to much right now and this division will get worse if we can't pull back from trying to legislate solutions versus teaching responsibility and core values. Please adjust to focusing on the hard but much better solution to our violence problems. Teach and lead individual and community responsibility.