

Submitter: Monique DeSpain
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB348

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, Good Senators of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in opposition to SB 348 (and M114). Not only is the contemplated legislation unconstitutional, but it is also presumptuous and morally wrong for any lawmaker to infringe upon the second amendment rights of Americans to defend themselves. The persistent and underhanded efforts to whittle away the gun rights of all law-abiding Oregonians is reprehensible. The unequivocal right of each citizen to keep and bear arms as set out in 2A of our US Constitution is intended to allow Americans to defend themselves from a tyrannical government and any other dangerous threat.

Ironically, the advocates of SB 348, M14 and their deceptive 64-page SB 348-1 Amendment submitted last Friday night, DO NOT PROTECT ANYONE (except perhaps a tyrannical government and armed criminals).

The advocates of these unconstitutional infringements on law-abiding citizens aim to harm the most vulnerable people in our communities. Do not be fooled by the lies and distorted 'data' these proponents of stealing rights present to you. In fact, the 'marginalized' people the advocates of this bill pretend to worry about: Women, minorities (to include Black and Hispanic Americans), people living in lower income neighborhoods, etc, are in fact the most vulnerable and the casualties we can expect from this legislative body taking the right to weapons from law abiding citizens while illegal weapons trafficking and other crime remains unchecked.

While you have considered other poor legislative proposals, you have heard testimony directly from Oregon Department of Corrections representatives that DOC is unable to keep illegal drugs out of prisons because 'there is always a demand for drugs...!' Do you believe the limits our lawmakers have put on our law enforcement personnel make it possible for law enforcement to curtail unlawful guns in our streets, schools, businesses? No. Criminals who kill people with guns do not follow the law and they will not follow these new proposed laws. Oregon "law enforcement" cannot even keep drug traffickers out of the controlled environment of Oregon prisons! The point is, no Oregon law will ever keep unlawful weapons off the street.

SB 348 merely creates more innocent victims of crime. Their blood will be on the hands of each politician who votes for this bill or anything like it.

School shootings, teen suicides, mass shootings...they are all perpetrated by the

mentally ill and/or the addicted. If you are genuinely concerned about suicide...then study WHY people are killing themselves vs. eliminating a tool of choice.

I strongly urge each of you to vote NO on SB 348 or any gun restrictions on law abiding adult citizens and put real effort into eliminating drug and human trafficking from our state, to cause district attorneys to enforce the laws we already have and protect the rights of innocent citizens. Focus your energy on stopping criminal activities and separate the mentally ill and the criminal from guns.

Sincerely,
Monique DeSpain