

Submitter: Neil Hennelly
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB348

As a retired Police Captain, who served in Oregon for well over 30 years, I am writing to oppose this measure in all its forms strongly. This bill targets lawful gun owners and will have no effect on criminals causing gun violence. Making it more difficult to purchase a firearm legally will do nothing to curb illegal gun sales. Criminals by definition do not follow rules, or laws and will continue to operate as they are now. The legislature needs to address the real issue of gun violence, and that is gang-related shootings. Why are we not sending resources and energy to address the root causes of gang membership, that lead to ongoing violence in our streets? These shootings affect young men of color at a rate that is wildly disproportionate to the population and needs to be addressed, look at the Portland area this past weekend, while the media no longer mention if a shooting is gang-related, the 5 this weekend most certainly were.

I do not hunt or fish, but I own guns based on my life as a police officer. If this law passes, I will not be able to carry the firearms, I am legally authorized to, as an officer because of magazine capacity. While I am not in favor of the large drum magazines that are in use today, the standard, stock magazines that come with pistols should not be included in this measure. You are basically disarming legal gun owners, which I believe is a violation of the Second Amendment. This causes undue financial hardship on legal gun owners, to identify a workaround, i.e. new gun purchases.

We see the media report every day that crime is up, and police response is down or very delayed due to understaffing. Adding hoops for legal gun ownership on already overburdened police agencies throughout the state is unfair, and will delay further police response times to critical incidents. I have attended over 1,000 hours of firearms-related training over the course of my career, I practice shooting on a regular basis at a local range, and I qualify with my prior agency to comply with the Federal Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act of 2004, yet upon passage, I will have to take a firearms safety course, this is absurd.

Having to pay a fee to purchase a firearm is akin to a tax, and appears to be designed to keep people of lesser financial means from possessing guns, again in violation of the 2nd Amendment. It is also blatantly unfair, as it creates a class structure wherein those of means get to protect their families, and those that can't afford it will be forced to buy on the illegal market, further victimizing communities that have already suffered enough.

Target criminals, not legal gun owners! Invest in communities of color to break the

cycle of gang violence. Target legislation to go after criminals, not law-abiding citizens, do your job.