

Submitter: Tony Fischer
On Behalf Of: My Family of 10 People
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB348

Well, as you can see, the network of busy bees known as the NRA, Patriots Groups, Republicans and Right-Wingers of all kinds along with the very small minority of Democrats that belong to the Democratic Party of Oregon's "Gun Owners Caucus", "Rural Caucus" and "Black Caucus" were ready for you. Even the newly elected Chairperson of the Oregon Democratic Party attached her name to it.

Of course ALL these people and groups were on the losing side of the 114 vote, right? Think about that. You know how it works, it's a NETWORK. One tells the other who tells the other, etc., etc. But they LOST in the November election when 114 won so don't let the sheer number of people who worship their guns scare you.

Now, Measure 114 is still locked up in Harney County, with the keys to its' cell being held by Judge Raschio. How we let ONE PERSON hold up the progress we made by passing a really sensible gun safety measure - 114 - is a travesty. His county of what, 5,000 people, voted to join Idaho anyway. Frankly it's tyranny by the minority. Perhaps we should just void elections because the will of the majority does not matter due to the ridiculous abuse of our system by reactionary ideologues?

I'm not going to go into all the argumentation. It's been repeated endlessly with nothing new here. What I will suggest is you legislators, whom we elected, follow the will of the people of the State of Oregon. I mean what is your job, anyway? Really I think it's to have the courage to face the problems of the people of the state, isn't it? Do something courageous? Do something you can be proud of?

Just pass a bill which follows Measure 114. It will be challenged in the Courts again somewhere. Yes, the gun lovers with their desire to be uncontrolled, their mistrust of government, their indifference to the deaths of so many children will complain. Let them move away if they want to live in Idaho or some other part of the Wild West. Ride it out in the Courts. You'll feel better for having the courage of your convictions and feel better that you took a step towards reasonableness and the safety of the lives of our children and others.

Conversely, pass the original "small version" of SB 348 and sit and wait for the Courts to do your job for you. That's easy, right?

Or, do nothing, which has led us to where we are today. Live with the status quo and your conscience, We'll go on and on just like we do now with the highest death rate per capita by far by guns in the so-called civilized world. We'll continue to be the least

civilized of all the countries when it comes to guns. We'll continue to live in fear and make no mistake, that is life in Oregon and in the United States now.

I highly recommend, however, to help us get out of this mess you and the Judiciary have gotten us into through inaction and obstruction by doing SOMETHING to get that case in Harney County moved out and up, probably ending up in the Supreme Court, as you know. Let's figure out what we can do, what we can't do and what we have to do to provide security and gun safety so we don't have to be afraid for ourselves and our children every day. Living in fear is not good for anyone's mental health and it's prepares the way for a complete failure of government.

- Tony Fischer