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OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
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Testimony on SB 348 with the Proposed -1 Amendment

March 29, 2023

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony today confirming my opposition to SB 348 and the proposed -1 amendment. It appears that my colleagues across the aisle are relentless in stripping away Constitutional rights from Oregonians.

This bill with the -1 amendment is an affront not only to the U.S. Constitution but the Oregon State Constitution as well. Section 27 of the State Constitution could not be any clearer, affirming that “The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defence [sic] of themselves[.]”

SB 348 and the -1 amendment include provisions that are already being legally challenged across the country. One does not have to look hard. California, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Washington, and other states as well as our own are spending millions of dollars in state resources defending their questionable gun control laws.

In closing, I would like to highlight a few stories of individuals using their legally purchased and possessed firearm to protect themselves and others. These are the people my colleagues would rather see become victims.¹

May 3, 2020, Madison County, Alabama: A woman fatally shot her former fiancé in self-defense when the man had attacked her.

January 23, 2023, Roswell, New Mexico: A woman fatally shot her husband in self-defense after he beat her and threatened to kill her.

February 15, 2023, Interlachen, Florida: A 67-year-old homeowner defended herself and her 90-year-old mother by fatally shooting an intruder who broke in her home and was armed with a handgun.

There are many other stories across the country that show us that firearms can and do save lives.

Sincerely,

Virgle Osborne
State Representative
House District 2

¹ Stories available at <https://www.heritage.org/staff/amy-sweaver>