

07 February 2024

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Senate Bill 1503

Dear Chair Senator Prozanski, Vice-Chair Senator Kim Thatcher and members Senators Gelser Blouin, Linthicum and Manning, Jr.

This is the 21st century, and historians tell us guns have been around for over 1000 years. What possible new information about guns could another task force come up with? Yet the sponsors of this bill want more money "for research on gun violence". There is never mention of knife violence, feet or fist violence? What about baseball bat violence or cast-iron-skillet violence? According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, gun violence is not even on the top ten list of causes of death.

Consider the war on poverty? It's still being waged—and lost—although for the thousands waging it, it's a profitable undertaking. How about the war on drugs? Has drug use been eliminated, or even greatly reduced? No, but the billions being expended find their way into somebody's pockets, don't they? Have food stamps eliminated hunger? Have various aid programs helped families stay together? Have the funds poured into education brought about a more knowledgeable population? But, the Oregon Health Authority, the bureaucrats administering those programs could change society for the better—no doubt about it—if they only had even MORE financing. It's all about money. That's the simple fact. Everything paraded before the public eye is window dressing—a distraction. It makes the role of government agencies seem important, beneficial, and necessary.

Translated, SB 1503 is merely another backdoor legislative tactic to further the infringement of our 2nd Amendment rights. The logic of the argument for those calling for stricter gun control laws, which SB 1503 is, is that something has happened to guns. But guns haven't changed. People have changed.

As for the suicide angle. Suicide by firearm is quick, and discouraged. Yet suicide by smoking, drinking, illicit drug use, poor driving skills, over-eating, lack of exercise, poor life choices and things of that nature is slower, yet tolerated. Is it just the speed of the act or is it really the guns?

Sincerely,

*Richard Wisner*