

Submitter: Nicholas Coleman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency
Management, Federal and World Affairs

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB947

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

I urge you to oppose SB 947. I am unsure why our time and taxpayer dollars are being wasted on proposals of changing language such as SB 947. Language is the tool we use to communicate, and words matter greatly to those who wish to communicate effectively. Terminology exists to separate concepts, ideas, and imagery. A militia and national guard are two distinctly different things. The National Guard is a state-based military force, which is organized, and funded by taxpayer dollars. A militia, however, are all physically fit civilians eligible by law for military service who are NOT members of the National Guard. The key difference is a militia is comprised of ordinary citizens whereas the National Guard is made up of professional soldiers. The change in terminology could change ordinary citizens into professional soldiers without them knowing and potentially being subject to the standards of the National Guard. Does the National Guard have a weapons registry? Would the ordinary citizens then be subject to submitting an inventory of weapons to the State and perhaps an entry and search of their homes for verification? What does it really mean to have the everyday Oregonian citizen become part of the State's National Guard? I urge you to oppose SB 947.