

The ability to practice safe and responsible firearm ownership is one of the key differentiators that sets us apart from many other countries in the world. We are incredibly blessed to have this freedom that our founding fathers set upon our country when they built it.

Similar to a nail gun, an axe or a chainsaw, a firearm is a tool that has many purposes.

For farmers it can be used to defend their livelihood against animals that want to ravage their livestock.

For hunters it's used to secure food or help them get their next paycheck if they create byproducts from the hunted animal.

For a father, it's the tool that may save his family's life from a home invasion one day, but also a tool used to bond with his children during range days, teaching them to safely use the tool and in what scenarios to use it.

For a woman, it's the saving grace that prevents her from potentially being attacked by increasingly violent and belligerent homeless in our city, as pepper spray and other means of defense are simply not effective when someone has a heavy amount of drugs flowing through their system, as these other means will only aggravate the attacker, not stop them.

Regardless of what law is passed and how strict it is, the criminals that want to use these tools purely for crime and destruction are going to find a way to get them, or make them regardless (see case of Shinzo Abe assassination in Japan, which has some of the strictest gun laws in the world). However, these laws only makes legal firearm ownership to law abiding citizens (and especially minorities and economically disadvantaged) so much more difficult, creating an uneven playing field between the law abiding citizens and the criminals that will get their guns regardless.

We cannot create more barriers to entry for firearm ownership. We already have a thorough background check process and strict training requirements for CHLs. We must keep Oregon safe and with maintained freedoms that most other states get to enjoy.

I sincerely hope this is given a second thought, as a society without even means of self defense is a society in turmoil.