

Submitter: Gerald Brian Evans
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

My nephew (Taylor Weiss) was shot and killed in front of Duda's Billiards bar in Bend, Oregon on August 10, 2023. The shooter was Caleb Cegers, a 20 year old, at the time, who had a felony record and could not legally purchase or have a firearm in his possession. What portion of Measure 114 would have saved Taylor's life? Magazine capacity would not have made a difference since it was one shot to the chest at about a 2 foot range. An application for a permit to purchase would not have worked because felons can't legally purchase a firearm, and Oregon already has background checks. And murder is illegal.

We have laws against drinking and driving, yet nearly 14,000 people die yearly on a national level, and 155 of those deaths are in Oregon. I think it is important to note that of the approximately 30,000 firearm deaths that happen in the U.S. every year 2/3 of those are suicide. Even if we remove all firearms from existence people will jump to their deaths, or hang themselves as my best friend from high school did about 8 years ago.

There is absolutely no basis to limit law abiding citizens as to what firearms they can own or limit how many rounds of ammunition that firearm can hold at any given time. Most states have Magazine limits while hunting big game and waterfowl, as well as upland game birds.

Our founding fathers could not have predicted the technological advancements on firearms, any more than they could have predicted the advancements in communications, although the first repeating firearm was patented in 1718, 69 years before the drafting of the Constitution of the United States. Does freedom of speech only apply to quill and ink or all forms of communication?

Finally, the first three words of the Constitution "We the People " affirm that the government of the United States exists to serve its citizens.

In closing I would like you to know that I am a registered Democrat, but if this keeps up I will vote Republican at every election.