

Submitter: Mark Forton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,
My name is Mark Forton, and I am a Registered Respiratory Therapist and a proud father of four children. My family and I are active members of our local community, and my children are involved in various community activities, including being members of the local gun club. As a family, we have always sought to contribute positively to the safety and well-being of our neighbors and society at large. I am writing today to strongly oppose HB3075, as I believe it will have a profoundly negative impact on our family, our future generations, and all law-abiding citizens in Oregon.

This measure appears to be a direct attack on the rights of responsible gun owners, while doing little to address the root causes of criminal activity. As a community member who abides by the law and seeks only to protect my family, I am deeply concerned that this legislation will only serve to benefit the criminals in our society. Criminals, by definition, do not follow the law, and they will find ways to circumvent any restrictions placed upon law-abiding citizens. HB3075 will leave responsible citizens like myself and my family vulnerable, with fewer means of self-defense. In 2020, we were told that we needed to protect ourselves from criminals and take steps to ensure our personal safety. At that time, there was widespread agreement that a strong, law-abiding citizenry is vital to the safety of our communities. However, with HB3075, we seem to be moving in the opposite direction, stripping away rights that were once considered fundamental to our safety and well-being.

I cannot understand how we have gone from advocating for self-defense and protecting ourselves from criminals to a place where we are now being asked to surrender our rights. This measure does nothing to address the underlying issues contributing to crime and violence. Instead, it punishes those of us who respect the law and use firearms responsibly.

As a father, I worry about the message this sends to our children. Our community is made up of responsible, law-abiding citizens who take their duties seriously, whether it is caring for others, serving in the military, or contributing to society in a myriad of ways. We deserve to be treated with respect, not as potential criminals.

This bill will not make us safer. It will not stop those who are already breaking the law. It will only serve to disarm and weaken the good people of Oregon, leaving us more vulnerable to those who choose to harm others.

I urge you to vote against HB3075 and stand with responsible, law-abiding citizens. Let us work together to find solutions that target the real problems, criminals and violence, without punishing those who are doing their part to contribute positively to society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mark Forton, RCP RRT