

Submitter: Erika Wolf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

I'm a blue collar worker that's lived in Oregon my entire adult life. While I understand the need for safety measures and believe common sense gun laws are important, as I've tried to learn and understand gun laws I have grown concerned over the amount of issues that arise from many of these laws, including many within Measure 114.

There are other ways we can work to help keep the community safe that would have a much greater impact to produce change and enhance safety, such as further improving our healthcare and mental health services, working on wealth inequality such as our housing crisis, and boosting our education system. Poverty causes crime more than nearly anything else. I know many of you know this. Some gun regulations, especially ones such as in Measure 114, are merely a band aid for a much larger issue, and ultimately primarily harm law abiding citizens. Please try and understand why those that have the most knowledge on such devices may be so against these rules. It's because many of these law changes do not make sense, and only harm those just trying to own guns lawfully. They are not legal experts, they are simply ordinary wanting a device they can practice with that can help them protect themselves and those they care about. It's one of our most basic rights, while common sense laws are important, this is not the way to do it, and there are many other avenues to help alleviate gun violence. These measures are mostly just reactionary.

These laws unnecessarily harm people who are trying to abide by the law, many of my friends who own firearms are constantly worried that they will somehow accidentally break a law, or that there will continue to be more laws put in place that make it more difficult for them to protect themselves or those they care about. These laws will do next to nothing to actually deter someone who wants to harm the public or themselves, they CAN however ruin a persons life in one way or another despite their best intentions of trying to remain compliant with all laws. Guns are a responsibility but they are also a right, and as I said, the average person is not a legal expert, gun owners shouldn't feel the need to walk on eggshells or worry that they lose a receipt or that the receipt gets too worn out that they could get a misdemeanor on their record, or some other consequence. These things affect REAL people, people that just want to protect their families and livelihoods. It causes undue harm and also takes some peoples rights away by making owning a weapon just too expensive. Many people get firearms from family members that pass away, or buy something that is affordable, all the added expenses make it nearly impossible to afford to, in their view, properly protect themselves.