

Submitter: Cody Smith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2639

During these bewildering times. I couldn't help but express my bewilderment regarding the recent developments surrounding HB 2639, a piece of legislation sponsored by Jason Kropf that seems to turn the concept of accountability on its head.

In one fell swoop, Kropf appears to be on a mission to transform law-abiding citizens into criminals, all while extending a welcome mat to those who have demonstrated a blatant disregard for our laws. One can only wonder how this makes sense in a state that prides itself on promoting safety and responsible gun ownership. Are we to believe that disarming responsible individuals will somehow enhance public safety? It seems more like a misguided effort to budge the balance of justice than a solution to a real issue.

Let's take a moment to reflect on the real implications of these proposed gun bills. By tightening the restrictions on responsible firearm ownership, Kropf is unintentionally criminalizing hardworking families and individuals who simply wish to exercise their constitutional right. In the meantime, his message to those who have committed serious crimes is clear: "You can wipe the slate clean as long as you've turned your life around." One has to ask, what about those who abide by the laws every day? Aren't we deserving of some consideration too?

Furthermore, it has come to my attention that the Oregon State Police are currently not following the very laws set forth for firearm ownership regarding individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to rehabilitation. It raises a poignant question: Why aren't lawmakers like Jason Kropf advocating for those who have followed the legal channels to regain their rights? It seems the priorities are misplaced when we have criminals getting a free pass while law-abiding citizens are left out in the cold.

The absurdity of this situation cannot be overstated—we are losing sight of accountability here. We should be holding criminals accountable for their actions, not letting them breeze through with a golden ticket out of their legal responsibilities. Individuals should complete their terms, pay their fees, and clear their probation and restitution obligations before even thinking about applying for an expungement. No express lanes for criminals, please!

Perhaps it's time for us to reconsider our support for those who seem more keen on reshuffling the deck of responsibility than on creating a safer community for all. Kropf's proposed changes seem less about reform and more about facilitating a

dangerous precedent where traditional values of accountability and the rule of law are compromised.

So, as we approach the upcoming vote, I urge you to think critically about these issues. We must protect our community by ensuring that we hold criminals accountable while supporting responsible citizens. Let us reflect on our priorities and perhaps say no to anything that Kropf wishes to implement. Enough is enough!