

Submitter: Cody James

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB697

Oh, Senate Bill 697, you absolute gem. The “Russell Paul Evans Act”? Sounds noble until you read it—then it’s just another steaming pile of control-freak nonsense. Raising the gun possession age to 21? Really? What’s next, banning 20-year-olds from driving because they might scare you on the highway?

Let’s cut through the fluff. You’re slapping a Class A misdemeanor—364 days in jail and a \$6,250 fine—on anyone under 21 caught with a firearm, unless they fit your tiny list of exceptions. And don’t forget the poor sap who transfers a gun to them—same punishment, because apparently, you think Oregonians are too dumb to know who they’re handing stuff to. Meanwhile, 18-year-olds can vote, join the military, and sign contracts, but heaven forbid they touch a rifle to defend themselves or hunt. Consistency’s overrated, right?

The exceptions are a joke, too. Bolt-action rifles and double-barreled shotguns are okay, but a semi-auto? Nope, too scary for the kiddos. And minors only get a temporary pass if mommy or daddy hands it over—because nothing screams “freedom” like needing parental permission at 19. Oh, and good luck to the 20-year-old who wants to protect their family in a state where criminals don’t check IDs before breaking in.

Where’s the evidence for this? Show me the stats proving 18-to-20-year-olds with guns are a plague on Oregon. You can’t, because this isn’t about data—it’s about feelings. You’re punishing law-abiding young adults while the real bad guys, who don’t care about your laws, keep doing their thing. Brilliant strategy. I’m sure they’re quaking in their boots over your 364-day max sentence.

And the transfer rules? Vague enough to trap anyone with a “reasonably should know” clause. So, if I sell a gun to a guy who looks 25 but forgot his ID, I’m screwed? Cool, I love a good legal guessing game. This bill’s a sloppy, rights-crushing mess that’ll do nothing but harass the innocent and clog the courts.

SB 697 is trash. Ditch it. Young adults aren’t your pawns to micromanage, and Oregon’s not safer with this garbage on the books.