

Submitter: Cody James
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3884

Well, well, House Bill 3884 with its shiny new amendments—what a glow-up. From a vague “let’s study something” to a full-on “let’s shield gun shops from lawsuits while pretending it’s about suicide prevention.” You’ve really outdone yourselves with this bait-and-switch, and I’m here for the circus.

So, the pitch is that “firearm hold agreements”—where someone hands their gun to a federal firearms licensee (FFL) for safekeeping—will magically cut Oregon’s suicide rates. You’ve got a bunch of “whereas” clauses crying about suicide being a crisis (fair), claiming it’s “evidence-based” (sure), and name-dropping states like Washington, Texas, and Louisiana like they’re poster children for success. Funny, though—those states have looser gun laws overall, yet you’re cherry-picking this one idea and slapping liability protection on it like it’s a cure-all. Bold move.

The meat of it? FFLs can now hold guns voluntarily, and they’re basically immune from lawsuits if something goes wrong—like, say, handing a firearm back to someone who then uses it to hurt themselves or others. Unless they’re negligent or the person’s waving a neon sign saying “I’m gonna do something bad,” they’re off the hook. Great plan—nothing screams “accountability” like giving businesses a free pass while banking on their psychic powers to spot a crisis.

Where’s the proof this even works here? You lean on “scientific research” and other states, but Oregon’s not Texas. What’s the data saying this will dent our suicide rate? Oh, right, you don’t have any—you’re just tossing this out and hoping it sticks. And why stop at FFLs? Why not pawn shops, friends, or that sketchy guy down the street? This feels less like a solution and more like a half-baked favor to gun dealers.

The kicker? It’s all voluntary. So, the people who’d actually use this are the responsible ones already, not the folks in crisis who won’t bother. Meanwhile, you’ve ditched the state police study from the original bill—guess you didn’t need facts after all. HB 3884’s a flimsy, feel-good mess that trades real answers for legal handouts. Scrap this garbage and try something that actually makes sense.

Sincerely,

A Taxpayer Who Sees Through Your Smoke and Mirrors