Submitter:	Sam Clement
On Behalf Of:	America
Committee:	Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB697

Is 18 years of age old enough to be a responsible adult or not? It was old enough for me to attend Marine Corps bootcamp in Paris Island, serve this country, willing to lay down my life. 18 was old enough for many Americans to deploy to foreign wars, kill and be killed, sacrifice their lives for this country. Families are destroyed all around the world because Uncle Sam says 18 is old enough for men and women to pick up a rifle and fight while they're in uniform in other countries but not in their own country? This is America, land of the free and home of the brave. Not land of the week, defenseless cowards that want to hold the government's hand. You are ultimately responsible for your own safety. Utopia doesn't exist in real life, I'm sorry but evil really exists. Even in prison where guns aren't allowed, people will still kill each other. I served in Iraq when I was 19yrs old and still couldn't legally buy a handgun or a beer when I returned home. Hell, you can't even buy tobacco unless you're 21yrs old now. Why is this hypocrisy socially acceptable? Why is it acceptable to walk around homeless in Portland with a beer in your hand and do drugs on the streets, yet if you go into a bar or want to buy cigarettes at a store you need to show your ID? It's the same reason you have to get background checked and have a conceal carry permit to have guns, it's all in the name of government control, not public safety! CRIMINALS don't care.....x1000, make that stick in your heads! If 18 isn't old enough to buy a gun, then we need to raise the age to enlist in the military as well and quit sending our kids to war! Laws are simply a form of government control and a money racket game more than they are for public safety. People learn responsibility through good parenting. Seek out training yourself, teach your children gun safety and marksmanship. That's how you make this country safer. Not by passing gun control laws that criminals don't care about and staying uneducated, creating fear mongering. Carrying a gun instills confidence, disipline, and responsiblity, something more people in this state and this country could use, just ask any Marine. -USMC OIF VETERAN 2003-2011