

Submitter: Tony Bush
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB697
Subject: Opposition to SB 697

Dear Members of the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 697, which would prohibit individuals under the age of 21 from possessing firearms, with limited exceptions. This bill unfairly targets responsible young adults who are legally considered adults in nearly every other aspect of life, including voting, serving in the military, and living independently. Denying them the right to possess firearms strips away their ability to defend themselves and exercise their Second Amendment rights.

There are many law-abiding citizens between the ages of 18 and 20 who own firearms for sport, hunting, and personal protection. These individuals often come from rural communities where responsible gun ownership is part of family tradition and daily life. SB 697 disregards this reality and punishes responsible behavior due to the actions of a few. It sends a message that young adults cannot be trusted with rights they are otherwise entitled to, despite having passed background checks and complied with all legal requirements.

Rather than imposing a blanket restriction, the legislature should focus on enforcing existing laws and addressing the root causes of violence. Singling out young adults who have done nothing wrong is not only unfair—it's ineffective. I urge you to oppose SB 697 and stand up for the rights of responsible Oregonians, regardless of their age.

Sincerely,
Tony Bush
Portland Or