

Submitter:

Mark Forton

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB698

My name is Mark Forton. I am a registered respiratory therapist, a lifelong Oregonian, a father of four, and an active member of my community. I stand in strong opposition to SB 698.

My family and I are proud, responsible members of a local gun club. Firearms have always been a part of our lives—not out of fear, but as a tradition of responsibility, safety, and civic freedom. I've taught my children not only how to safely handle firearms, but also about the deep responsibility that comes with exercising that right. As a healthcare professional, I understand the importance of safety and responsibility. But this bill misses the mark. True public safety comes from education, community involvement, and enforcement of existing laws—not from adding more restrictions that punish responsible citizens while doing little to deter criminal behavior.

We need laws that target the root causes of violence, not ones that make it harder for families like mine to pass down values of safety, respect, and responsibility. I urge you to vote **\*\*NO\*\*** on SB 698 and to seek solutions that uphold both public safety and the constitutional rights of Oregonians.

Respectfully,

Mark Forton, RCP RRT