

Submitter: Christina Forton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB697

My name is Christina Forton. I am a lifelong Oregonian, a mother of four, and an active member of our local gun club alongside my husband and children. I am writing in strong opposition to SB 697.

Firearms are a part of our family's life—not out of fear, but as a long-standing tradition of responsibility, education, and civic freedom. We practice and teach firearm safety at home and at the range, and our involvement in the gun club has helped instill in our children values like accountability, discipline, and respect for the law.

SB 697 does not promote public safety—it creates unnecessary burdens for lawabiding families like mine. Instead of targeting criminals or addressing the real roots

of violence, it imposes restrictions on responsible citizens who are already doing everything right.

As a mother, I worry that this bill will make it harder for families to teach firearm safety in a controlled and responsible environment. Beyond that, I'm also concerned about how SB 697 could disproportionately affect marginalized individuals, including members of the LGBT community, who may rely on their Second Amendment rights for self-defense in situations where they feel unsafe or unprotected.

All Oregonians—regardless of background—deserve equal protection under the law, including the right to defend themselves. Bills like SB 697 chip away at those rights, and they do little to make our communities safer in the process.

I urge you to vote ****NO**** on SB 697 and instead pursue legislation that focuses on education, enforcement of existing laws, and meaningful community-based solutions.

Respectfully,
Christina Forton
Mother of Four