

Submitter:	Elizabeth Fessler
On Behalf Of:	Youth Shooters
Committee:	Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB697

My name is Elizabeth Fessler, and I am fourteen years old. I am asking you to oppose SB 697.

I have been shooting shotguns competitively since I was 10 years old for the Mid-Valley Clay Crushers located in Gervais. Since then I have worked really hard to improve my shooting skills, and gun safety is still really important to me. I have competed at the National level, and have won five National Champion titles myself. This experience has taught me about gun control and safety, so that when I shoot nobody gets hurt. When my team travels to big tournaments like Western Regionals in Las Vegas over spring break, we follow the safety guidelines so that we can stay safe and have fun. We use our guns safely and responsibly so that we can have fun breaking more clay targets.

Shooting sports are really important to kids for many reasons, and some of these reasons apply to me too. Shooting gives kids who don't play any other sports a chance to try something new and be part of a team. It can help them learn to try new things and have new experiences. Being a part of the Mid-Valley Clay Crushers shooting team has helped me grow in my communication skills and taught me to be more outgoing. Clay target shooting is a wonderful opportunity for kids to grow and learn, and I don't know where I'd be without it. This bill should not be passed because it will negatively affect so many kids in Oregon. There are a lot of kids that already shoot safely, and I know that they won't be happy about being forced to stop. Additionally, kids that want to learn how to shoot won't be able to, and so they won't hear about the importance of gun safety either. It is important for them to learn how to safely handle a gun so that nobody gets hurt, and the more kids practice handling guns safely the better they will be at it.

Shooting sports are a great place for teenagers like me to be in a positive environment around positive role models. Please oppose SB 697.