

Submitter: Ryan Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB696

I oppose Senate Bill 696, which criminalizes rapid fire activators with harsh penalties—up to 10 years for transport or manufacture and a year for possession. Even with amendments adding a distribution offense, this bill overreaches, infringing on Second Amendment rights and targeting law-abiding citizens without proven public safety gains.

Rapid fire activators, like bump stocks or binary triggers, enhance lawful firearms. Banning them assumes guilt in responsible owners, yet evidence is thin. The ATF reported in 2022 that such devices are rarely used in crimes—most gun violence involves standard firearms. The Las Vegas shooting, often cited, is an outlier, not the norm.

Penalties are excessive: a Class B felony rivals punishments for violent crimes, while the misdemeanor possession charge ensnares hobbyists or collectors. The amendments' ban on sharing 3D-printing files further stifles free speech and innovation, punishing intent, not acts.

Exemptions for police and machine gun owners are narrow, leaving regular citizens vulnerable. Oregon's gun laws are already strict—focus should shift to enforcing them, not piling on vague, punitive rules.

Reject SB 696. It's a solution without a problem, eroding rights over rare risks.