

Submitter:

Concerned Citezen

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB697

I oppose Senate Bill 697, which bans firearm possession for those under 21, with limited exceptions, and punishes violations with up to a year in jail and a \$6,250 fine. This infringes on Second Amendment rights and unfairly targets young adults without evidence of necessity.

Adults aged 18-20 are legally responsible citizens—able to vote, serve in the military, and own property. SB 697 strips them of a constitutional right enjoyed by older adults, despite their maturity. The bill's exceptions (e.g., bolt-action rifles) are narrow, excluding handguns critical for self-defense, especially for rural youth or those in unsafe areas.

There's no data showing this age group drives gun violence in Oregon. Per the FBI (2022), most firearm crimes involve older offenders or illegal guns, not lawful 18-20-year-olds. Punishing transfers to them further burdens families teaching safe use, like hunting—a tradition for many.

The penalty—equal to serious crimes—overreacts to a non-issue, risking young lives with criminal records. Reject SB 697. Protect rights and focus on actual threats, not age-based bans.