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On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB947

This bill isn't just a minor tweak; it's a blatant assault on the very foundation of our right to keep and bear arms! By gutting the definition of "militia" and trying to scare law-abiding citizens with vague threats of "paramilitary activity," Oregon is directly spitting in the face of the Second Amendment.

Here's the unvarnished truth:

* The Militia IS the People! The Founding Fathers weren't talking about just the National Guard when they enshrined the right to a "well-regulated militia." They meant us – the armed citizenry! This bill's deliberate erasure of the "unorganized militia" is a clear attempt to disarm the populace in spirit and eventually in practice. They want us to forget that the ultimate check on government tyranny lies with an armed citizenry, ready to defend liberty. This isn't about parades and uniforms; it's about the inherent right of individuals to possess the means to resist oppression.

* "Paramilitary Activity" is a Trojan Horse! This vague language is a loaded gun pointed directly at Second Amendment supporters. What exactly constitutes "paramilitary activity"? Is it a group of friends practicing tactical shooting? Is it a neighborhood watch that includes firearms training for self-defense? This ambiguity is deliberate, designed to chill the exercise of our rights through fear of prosecution. They want to criminalize training, preparation, and even association among gun owners. This isn't about preventing actual violence; it's about stifling the ability of citizens to effectively exercise their right to self-defense.

* Government Overreach – Plain and Simple! Granting the Attorney General sweeping investigative powers based on this nebulous concept of "paramilitary activity" is a recipe for abuse. This is a fishing expedition waiting to happen, where law-abiding gun owners can be harassed and intimidated simply for exercising their constitutional rights. We won't stand for our rights being treated as suspect, requiring us to constantly look over our shoulders for fear of baseless accusations.

* They're Coming for Our Training! Don't be fooled by the small print "exemptions." The overall climate this bill creates is hostile to firearms training. They want us to be unskilled and unprepared. A well-regulated militia, in the truest sense, requires citizens to be proficient in the use of arms. This bill, by casting a shadow of suspicion over group training and preparedness, undermines our ability to be that effective check on power.

This isn't about public safety; it's about control. It's about chipping away at our fundamental right to self-defense and our ability to act as a safeguard against government overreach. Oregon SB 947 is an affront to the Second Amendment and a direct threat to the liberty of every law-abiding citizen. We must stand firm against this tyrannical overreach!