

Submitter: Joshua Lang

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB947

Subject: Opposition to SB947 – Replacement of "Militia" with "National Guard"

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 947, which seeks to replace the historically significant and constitutionally vital term "militia" with "National Guard" in our state laws. This proposed change fundamentally misunderstands and misconstrues the clear intent of the Founding Fathers regarding the role of the militia in preserving the security and liberty of a free state.

The Founders explicitly intended the militia to encompass all able-bodied citizens capable of bearing arms. James Madison, in Federalist No. 46, emphasized the militia as a broad citizen force intended as a safeguard against potential tyranny. Alexander Hamilton, in Federalist No. 29, clearly described the militia as ordinary citizens, explicitly distinguishing it from a professional standing army. Further reinforcing this, George Mason defined the militia as "the whole people, except for a few public officials," while Richard Henry Lee affirmed, "A militia, when properly formed, are in fact the people themselves."

The Supreme Court further validated this understanding in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), clearly defining "militia" as encompassing "all able-bodied men" and explicitly affirming the individual right to bear arms, independent of formal military affiliation. The Court decisively established that the right outlined in the Second Amendment is fundamentally personal and is not restricted to service within state-controlled military forces such as the National Guard.

Replacing "militia" with "National Guard" distorts the constitutional heritage and undermines the foundational balance intended by our nation's Framers. Such a change implicitly redefines a constitutionally enshrined, citizen-based defense against governmental overreach into a federally controlled entity, thereby diminishing the intended safeguard of personal liberties and sovereignty.

For these substantial constitutional and historical reasons, I respectfully urge you to reject SB947 and preserve the original intent and integrity of our state and federal constitutions. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to preserving our fundamental liberties.

Respectfully,

Joshua Lang  
36 yr old - Oregon Native