

My position: Being female and having been sexually assaulted in the past I have a different view of gun ownership. I have had to defend myself before and I know that if I'd been unarmed my ability to do so would have been curtailed. I also have been a victim of assault when I was unable to defend myself. I did escape with my life, but my self respect took a real beating.

Today, I am armed. I have a Concealed Carry Permit for Oregon and I practice with my carry piece monthly. I am an US Air Force veteran and an Army Guard veteran. I have been trained with pistols and rifles. I shoot skeet almost weekly. I feel that I know this gun ownership issue and want to express a concern that I have not heard any one else suggest nor have I heard anything that relaxes my feelings about this legislating away my rights to arm and defend myself. I have sworn to uphold the Constitution by joining the military more times than I have said "I do" in marriage. I feel married to my country, not my government. I am proud to live in a country that has a written document that guarantees us rights. I am disheartened by all the various groups who want to change those rights without proper course of changing said Constitution. They don't try that route because it won't be easily changed.

Here's my major concern.... How will this law protect people's privacy, my privacy? Is it going to be where just anyone selling a gun can call up and ask about the background of any other person? How can that work? Who is going to keep our privacy safe? News stories come out every day about ID Theft.

How can a background check system work if JUST ANY ONE CAN CHECK ON ANY OTHER PERSON? I don't mind Licensed Firearms Dealers being able to do this because they are LICENSED and one knows they won't just be using that privilege just any old way because their right to check on us can be revoked. One mistake can cost someone their life, if just any person can call up and check on any other person.

How will my information be safe? WHAT IS GOING TO STOP A CON ARTIST FROM CALLING AND CHECKING ON JUST ANYONE ELSE THEY WANT TO CHECK ON? How can this work? ID Theft allows criminals to have our information to use and do this checking. It's like I'm saying... What if Joe Blow from around the block wants to know about me or my spouse... He calls up and does a background check.. Perhaps this Joe Blow can use our names he gets from the internet or may be from our recycle bin... you see where this goes?

Also, do I smell another bureaucracy growing out of another law? It already takes forever for the gun show FFL types to get the background check processed, imagine if it's everyone! Personally, I don't want another state bureaucracy sucking up our tax dollars... and the stuff about sending out a cop if someone fails the check... Whoa. Wait a minute. My last name is Smith and when I first moved to Portland, there were three Bridget Smith's in the phone book and I got calls for one of them quite regularly. Pretty soon, the checking system to check the checkers will just cause everything to grind to a halt while the law maker types squeal for more money to fund their failed idea. If we let this be enacted we'll play hell getting it revoked. A court decision would be our only hope.

Isn't the irony of all this obvious? The USA makes and distributes more guns than any other country in the world FOR USE IN WAR! We have armed police every where. If the criminal is going to try and come in my door to run from the cops, they will not find an innocent bystander in my home. If we have invaders come into our town, they will not be met unarmed.

I will not be assaulted again without defending myself. Those people's rights end at my doorstep. When they start talking about all the people killed by guns every year, they manage to leave out the number of people killed by the police and they also don't bother to compare those figures to how many people die each year from medical mistakes. I know something about that issue as well. The numbers are way different... few shootings compared to medical mistakes. I think, too, when people start talking about mental illness, they should investigate the number of shootings that happen at the hands of someone who has been on, or is on, one of the mental meds pushed by the medical professionals. Check out Kip Kinkel's history. Those meds can make people worse, but they don't want that discussed in a public forum. The biggest danger seems to be when the person is first getting off the meds, especially cold turkey as troubled Kip Kinkel was just off of one of them.

Thanks for providing a way to express my opinions and thoughts on this issue. I hope you will take some of what I say into consideration.

Sincerely,

Bridget E. Smith  
7342 N Alma Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97203