

My name is Shannon Mercer. I currently reside in Columbia County.

I work as a Field Service Engineer in the Semiconductor industry. I am a Desert Storm Veteran and spent a short time as a Lane County Deputy Sheriff in the Corrections Division.

I disagree with this bill on many levels. However, I would like to take this time to examine how, if the current bill being proposed had been law, I would be a criminal that had gotten away with my crime.

Some time ago, a very close family friend, who I have known my entire life, found herself being threatened by her estranged spouse. Her tires were slashed, her car windows were broken, her outbuildings and other structures were vandalized, and her home was broken into on several occasions. There were increasingly violent threats to her life and safety. Law enforcement officers were called and reports were filed. Yet, those threats of increasing violence and destruction of private property continued.

You see, unbeknownst to her, she had married an individual who was very good at hiding his criminal background and mental health issues. He had a history of violence that had left others with permanent scars and broken bones.

The situation cost her her job, legal fees had left her broke, and the catalyst that brought her marriage to come to an end was when her husband, who knew how to work the system, had drugged her, called 911 and claimed she was suicidal, forcing her to be admitted to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation. He was trying to set the stage to show that she was an unfit mother and discredit her. However, she was found to NOT be a danger to herself or others and discharged the next day. But we all know what happens to your ability to purchase a firearm if you've been admitted to a psychiatric hospital for suicidal tendencies. Consequently, she couldn't afford a firearm and doubted she'd be able to pass a background check if she tried.

She finally asked me for help. I obliged. I know this woman like I know my own sister. Better, in fact. I took the time to drive through the night, covering nearly 300 miles one way in order to bring her a firearm with which she might be able to protect herself. I also cobbled together a video security system that I took the time to install while I was there. I wasn't able to stay long. Certainly not long enough to find an FFL dealer had we wanted to.

Let's make a long story shorter. A few nights later, as she sat in her living room resting after she had put her 3 year old son to bed following a long day, she heard the stairs coming from the basement creak. She was pretty sure who it was. She walked slowly to the landing and cocked the hammer on the revolver that I had loaned her. **Thankfully**, that sound alone was enough to end the encounter. She wasn't even able to utter a word of warning before he had fled through the downstairs window that he had jimmed open earlier in the day. Not a shot was fired. No blood was spilled that night.

If SB194 had been the law at that time, I would have been breaking that law by doing what I had done. Would I have done it anyway? Yes. Would anyone have known that I had done it?

No. If myself or my friend had mentioned it to anyone only then would it have been known. That's *just one way* that makes this law unenforceable.

As is said so many times when Gun Control legislation is brought forth again and again, "if it only saves one life, then it's worth it". What I did was worth it and I'll do it again if need be.

You say that this legislation is a step in the right direction. What will the next step be? Closing the built-in loopholes this bill contains?

Thank you,

Shannon Mercer