

Hello,

My name is Steven Sturman and I am someone who views SB 941 as an atrocious affront to civil liberties and to victims of crimes.

Let me explain why I say this harms crime victims.

On 01JAN89, my father was attacked, viciously and nearly beaten to death by seven 'kids' while walking a friend of mine home. They came out of nowhere and attacked him without provocation. They would have killed my father had it not been for my brother, Jim.

On Christmas, my dad had given my brother a Walther PPKs pistol. When my brother heard what was going on, he went outside and pulled out his legally owned pistol. He warned the assailants that he had a gun and if they did not get off of my dad, that he would shoot them.

The doctors said that had my dad been a smaller man, he would have died. The Sheriff deputies said that if my brother hadn't have got there when he did, they would have killed our father. My father suffered severe lacerations to his scalp that required over 200 stitches to close and a Plastic Surgeon. He suffered bruised kidneys and a bruised liver as well as having nearly a litre of blood removed from his lung. He had fractured ribs as well as serious traumatic head injuries.

My father spent over a week in the hospital and then 3 months recovering at home before he could return to work. It was by the grace of Almighty God that my brother was there and had his weapon.

Had SB 941 been a law at the time, the story might have had a very different outcome. Thankfully, Oregon's freedoms were such that my father was able to purchase the gun from a friend and then give it to my brother. That weapon saved my father's life.

Because my brother was there and had his weapon, my father lived another 20 years and was able to teach me to be the man I am today.

I would ask that you all consider that gun ownership allows victims to protect themselves and allow people like me or my brother to protect the lives of others.

Criminals don't care about the law. It's why we call them criminals. How do you justify imposing more onerous restrictions on those of us who aren't criminals. The fact is, if this passes, all you will do is prevent ordinary, decent, law abiding people from protecting themselves while doing nothing substantive to prevent criminals from getting their hands on guns.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Steven S. Sturman  
Junction City, OR