

Let's say I was at a gun rights rally carrying a sign that reads PROTECTING THE 2nd AMENDMENT! I'm just expressing my opposition to any regulations that infringe on my right to keep and bear arms. After all, didn't the U.S. Supreme Court affirm that right in the landmark Heller case in 2008?

What I might be missing, however, is that same decision included an emphasis that 2nd Amendment rights were limited.

Justice Scalia, who gave the majority opinion, wrote, "Nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms."

So PROTECTING THE 2nd AMENDMENT! means not only that I have a right to keep and bear arms, but also a responsibility to regard proposed regulations such as background checks to be constitutional as well.

Dick Mase
2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd. #411
Portland, Oregon
503-299-4411

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Fwd: Heart Breaking

Date:Sun, 08 Jun 2014 06:44:49 -0700

From:Dick Mase <dna@tplaza.org>

To:OR letters <letters@oregonian.com>

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Heart Breaking

Date:Sat, 07 Jun 2014 13:14:41 -0700

From:Dick Mase <dna@tplaza.org>

To:OR letters <letters@oregonian.com>

It can break one's heart to read of another young, innocent victim of an attempted mass murder (Oregonian, June 7,2014.) Paul Lee, just 19, was described as

"...a ray of light" by a former teacher at Westview High.

The shooter, a young man with a history of danger to self and others, had become obsessed with the Columbine mass shooting, and was reported as wanting to become famous in making his own final exit at a school.

Despite that history, Aaron Ybarra was able to possess a gun and enough ammunition to kill or wound many innocent students at Seattle Pacific University.

Fortunately, Aaron had to reload, which prevented him from carrying out his plan to kill as many as possible. Nearby students subdued him.

One hopes that Washington voters will pass initiative 594 in November to require universal background checks on gun sales.

Washington did it! Now it's Oregon's turn with SB 941!

Dick Mase
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SB 941 is good news for those of us concerned about suicide prevention. It improves firearms prohibitions in court-ordered outpatient treatment in cases where the person's past history of threats or violence indicates a reasonable likelihood of danger to self or others.

We know that access to a gun increases substantially the risk of a completed suicide. Suicides are often impulsive, especially among young people, and sometimes are reactions to temporary adversity.

Also, suicidal impulses are often a symptom of depression, a condition which is now treated successfully by modern therapies.

In Oregon, there's an established link between 29% of gun deaths and mental illness, according to the Oregon Public Health Division. Let's pass SB 941! Since when is convenience more important to Oregonians than human life?

Dick Mase
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The Oregon legislature has an opportunity to do something about the kind of mass murder school shooting planned by Grant Accord at West Albany High School in May of 2013. His plan included the acquiring of a semi-automatic rifle and pump-action shotgun, and to out-do Columbine with its 15 deaths.

Being just 17, he could not purchase a long gun legally. But without a background check he could purchase them from a private seller. No questions asked. That loophole can be closed by passing SB 941.

Are we prepared to say we are not willing to do anything to reduce the likelihood of mass shootings at Oregon schools? That's not the Oregon I'm proud of.

Dick Mase
2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd. #411
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According to newspaper accounts, 26 year old Robert Boysen was released from a Washington state prison on Friday, March 8, 2013. He was picked up by his grandparents, who organized a welcome home party for him at their house.

The next day his grandparents were found dead by strangulation and Robert had fled in their car.

Sources at the prison then reported that Robert had threatened to kill family members and cops when released. He had mentioned committing, "Suicide by cop."

Detectives investigating the case discovered that Robert had been searching the internet for gun shows or, "Looking for guns."

The search for Robert ended on Tuesday in Lincoln City. One could ask why did he come to Oregon if he was looking for guns? The probable answer? He knew he had to get out of Washington's state-wide search for him, and he could buy guns in Oregon.

But, having been convicted of felonies six times, and being the prime suspect in the death of his grandparents, how could he pass a background check? Robert didn't need to. Under current Oregon law, he could buy semi-automatic firearms from a private seller without a background check.

Current law is not up to the task of safeguarding the lives of Oregonians, and must be changed. I strongly support SB 941!

Dick Mase
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Why would the passage of SB 941 be in doubt? Maybe you could tell me if there's something wrong with my thinking.

Nearly everyone is concerned about gun safety and gun violence. The most popular measure for doing something about it is background checks.

Republicans favor it, Independents favor it, Democrats favor it. Gun owners favor it, and NRA members favor it. It sounds like a slam dunk for passage.

Easy access to guns, especially by the more impulsive children and teens, increases the suicide and unintentional death rates. Easy access to guns by those who should never have guns increases the homicide rate. Shouldn't the suicide, homicide, and unintentional death rates matter to elected officials?

If you've found anything I've said to be untrue or illogical, I'd like to know about it.

A BIG thank you if you decide to vote for SB 941!

Dick Mase
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According to newspaper accounts, 26 year old Michael Boysen was released from a Washington state prison on Friday, March 8, 2013. He was picked up by his grandparents, who organized a welcome home party for him at their house.

The next day his grandparents were found dead by strangulation and Robert had fled in their car.

Sources at the prison then reported that Robert had threatened to kill family members and cops when released. He had mentioned committing, "Suicide by cop."

Detectives investigating the case discovered that Robert had been searching the internet for gun shows or, "Looking for guns."

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