

My name is Dick Willis and I am a resident of Multnomah County. Because Friday's windstorm caused damage to my house, I must stay home today to see to repairs. But it's important that I submit this testimony in support of SB797 and SB868.

I have three close family members—a brother and two sons-in-law—who have devoted their careers to law enforcement, over 70 years on the line among them. They tell of many, many instances when they've had to confront some dangerously unbalanced individual in possession of a deadly weapon. I would hate to lose any one of them at the hands of a person who should never have had access to a weapon because of a personal history of brutal or deranged or volatile behavior.

My grandchildren are in their twenties now and have been curious about what life was like back when I was their age. So I wrote a series of stories about my life in the 60's and 70's, and I created a website to archive those accounts. My grandkids tell me that one story in particular has been very meaningful for them: [Why I Don't Own a Gun...](#)

It begins ... I never have and I never will. In fact I don't own a weapon of any kind. I've never felt a need to.

However, I did purposefully shoot a man once.

And then I apologized to him.

I know firsthand how easy it is to make a mistake with a firearm, even in the most reasonable and justifiable of circumstances. I want to do what I can to ensure that Oregon is as safe a place as we can make it for future generations. I know that SB797 and SB868 are steps in the right direction. I ask that you help pass them into law.

Thank you,  
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