

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Chairman Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Committee members;

When the following bills come before your committee I urge you to oppose them. Senate Bill 764 on the grounds that as written it has the potential to be turned into anything at all. Among other things it states, "relating to firearms", which in the current anti-gun zeal affecting our state legislature is vague enough to warrant serious doubts it would be left as is.

I also urge you to oppose Senate Bill 797. The safeguards already in place are entirely sufficient. As written SB 797 has the potential to delay a firearms transfer indefinitely, in fact forever. From what I understand our State Police do not have a stellar track record of conducting fair background checks. In particular if a purchase is delayed the default position of OSP seems to be to decline approval. I am also under the impression that one of the supporters of this legislation, Representative Jennifer Williamson, vice-chair of the House Committee on Judiciary and House Democratic Leader has stated that background check delays are false 95% of the time. Again, I urge you to oppose this piece of legislation. Why must the state continue to meddle in all the affairs of the citizenry?

I also urge you to oppose Senate Bill 868. It is vague in the extreme, allowing the confiscation of firearms base on *anyone's perception*, whether qualified or not, that one is a danger to oneself or others. It does not even require a crime to have been committed. As I understand it, one of the *indicators* that one could be dangerous is to have purchased – or even attempted to have purchased – a firearm or ammunition within the prior 180 days. This legislation is ridiculous.

Lastly, I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1026. This bill reads like an example of how not to craft a piece of legislation. Why does it pick on firearms? What about endangering a minor by allowing access to alcohol or prescription drugs? Or the car keys? Or knives and axes? Or hammers? Or just being able to go outside? Are those next?

Please understand that guns do not kill people any more than spoons make people fat. I don't understand why that is so hard to understand. Legislative Bills such as these miss the bigger issue regarding public and private safety, i.e., mental health. There seems to be a lot of nut-jobs running around loose these days. Making it more difficult for law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and others is not helping us. Touting themselves as guardians of the public interest, some lobby for laws that put liberty at risk. Supposing that protecting society was the highest imperative for government, they increasingly view the exercise of individual liberty as a threat.

Thank you for your time,

Richard Wisner  
Siletz, Oregon