

Dear Senators,

SB 797 - NO

SB 868 - NO

I strongly oppose SB 797 which gives the Oregon State Police the power to deny a firearm's transfer. Currently, the OSP regularly delays or denies firearm sales to buyers who are qualified to purchase; it's a documented fact that almost all--95%, according to Representative Jennifer Williamson--OSP firearms transfer delays are in error. In most employment, an error rate of 95% would never happen as the employee/process/system would be terminated long before that number was ever reached. With that in mind, you cannot penalize and/or criminalize lawful and qualified buyers because OSP fails or is wholly unable to do their job accurately. This is especially true in cases where the firearms dealer knows the buyer personally and knows he or she is qualified.

Additionally, I also strongly oppose SB 868. This bill would allow a person to have his or her rights to own a gun stripped away simply because he or she already bought a firearm or ammunition within the last 180 days! Would you deny somebody the right to buy a second car because they bought one, or put gas in one, within the last 180 days? Or purchased and used prescription drugs, or visited the hospital? All three of those--cars, prescription medication and hospitals--are known and documented to be responsible for more deaths than guns. Knives and baseball bats have been known to be used to kill and inflict harm. These along with guns and the other items mentioned are inanimate objects, and not capable in and of themselves to act. Someone that intends to do harm will find that there are many ways to do so.

SB868 is just a blatant attack on an individual's right to keep and bear arms. Furthermore, most of the behaviors listed in SB 868 as reasons to take away a person's firearms already disqualify one for firearm ownership, but this bill ALSO allows a person to lose his gun rights because of "unlawful and reckless... display or brandishing of a firearm." What exactly is "reckless display or brandishing?"

Finally, SB 868 provides exactly ZERO help for a person who is truly a danger to themselves and ZERO protection for any family member who is actually in danger from the person whose rights will be taken. If the person who loses his or her rights is truly dangerous, nothing in this bill addresses that danger. The role of government is to protect and defend the rights of citizens; both of these bills fail that test miserably ... they're thinly veiled disarmament and gun confiscation bills. I urge you to vote NO on both of these attacks on the Second Amendment and law-abiding citizens of the State of Oregon.

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