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From the Desk of
Senator Thatcher

Sen. Kruse

SEN. LINTHICUM

From the Desk of
Senator
Alan Olsen

The Oregon Firearms Federation Urges a No Vote on SB 719 A

You have no doubt received a large volume of mail concerning SB 719A.

We believe this well intentioned legislation is a minefield of potential abuse and does nothing to protect people who may be suicidal, or the family members of people who are truly dangerous.

There is *nothing* in the bill to offer aide to those who are self destructive or safety for people living with those who are prone to violence.

We already have many policies and procedures to deny firearms to people who have committed acts of violence. But SB 719A allows the confiscation of property for the simple act of having *purchased a firearm*.

Who would make an accusation against a household member, which resulted in the humiliation of a firearm's confiscation by police, and then think they are safe if they continue to live with the person they accused?

SB 719A allows confiscation of firearms as the result of a DUI. Oddly, it does not allow confiscation of your car. Driving after having had one drink too many does not make a person homicidal or suicidal.

If we are really concerned with people taking their lives, perhaps we should focus on *why* people commit suicide rather than *how* they commit suicide. Maybe we should look at the treatment our veterans get at VA hospitals. Maybe we should question a culture that treats every issue with drugs that often have warnings about suicidal ideation.

If a person commits a crime, we have a process to hold them accountable.

If a person is adjudicated mentally ill, we have a process to keep them from harming themselves and others. SB 719 A adds nothing to that. It is simply a tool that can be exploited by angry family members.

No thought has been given to the problems of where and how the police will store confiscated firearms. This could be a serious issue for a smaller department.

In my town, the Canby Police believe they have adequate storage space, but only because of the construction of a new police station. As Canby Police Chief Bret Smith

told me *"The storage of firearms certainly would be of concern if we were located in our old facility and a new police facility had not been constructed."*

As for what would be the legal disposition of Class III firearms, neither the ATF nor Chief Smith know how those devices could be legally confiscated and stored by local police. It is almost impossible for them to be stored by a private party.

Multnomah Count Judge Kenneth Walker proclaimed in open court that all guns, even those in the possession of the police, should be "dumped in the ocean." What chance would an accused gun owner have of a fair hearing if appearing before a ideologically motivated partisan like that?

Please consider the undeniable potential for the abuse of SB 719A and vote no.