

EDITORIAL

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COMMENTARY

Why I Voted Against The Gun Bill

Firearms are very controversial. They are controversial due to the recent publicity generated by the recent school shootings and they were controversial 200 years ago when our country was founded. That is why our founding fathers added the 2nd amendment to the United States Constitution, to make sure that in controversial times, the right to bear arms for protection or recreation would be preserved.

No one wants criminals to have access to guns. But the goal of keeping guns out of the hands of criminals should not be an excuse to take 2nd Amendment rights away from law-abiding citizens.

Many people have questioned why I would vote for SB 700, an earlier bill concerning gun shows, but vote against HB 2535. It is incorrect to assume that the bills are identical, because they are remarkably different. SB 700 was a

straightforward bill that closed a loophole in our gun law that allowed people to sell firearms at gun shows without getting a background check. HB 2535 opened many more loopholes than it closed. Many of those loopholes within HB 2535 were not publicized to the general public. Several of those stipulations caused me great concern as I studied the bill.

For instance, in Section 6 of HB 2535, there is a requirement that if a person, a private person, transfers more than 25 guns in a year, they are required to have a background check on the 26th and all subsequent purchasers. How can this be enforced? If a person does not have respect for the law, they are not going to meticulously keep track of how many guns they have sold until they reach 26 and start performing background checks. Only law-abiding citizens will follow this rule.

Another thing that was of vast concern to me was Section 16. Section 16 says that a person commits the offense of unlawful storage of a firearm if a child, age 15 or younger, gains access to their gun and kills or injures another person within 24 hours. In order to avoid the risk of being liable, you would have to store your gun in a locked storage device or area with either a combination or a key stored separately, or have a locked device in place on the gun at the time that it was stolen.

Besides the unfairness that enforcement of this provision could bring in certain situations, I was also vastly concerned with the chilling effect that this could have on the ability to defend your family, yourself, and your property. If, in order to avoid potential liability, you have to lock up your gun, your access to your gun is diminished. In an emergency situation, such as a

break in, you may not be able to defend yourself because of the inability to get your gun in position to fire. This is dangerous. In fact, it could embolden thieves to actually steal more guns because of increased confidence that law-abiding citizen's guns are not as likely to be used on them.

After carefully studying HB 2535, I concluded that it creates more problems than solutions as well as being a possible infringement upon the Constitutionally guarded 2nd Amendment rights of Oregonians. There are over 40,000 gun-related laws on the books across this country. I believe that sound enforcement of existing laws already on the books here in Oregon will be much more beneficial than passing well-intended but flawed legislation such as HB 2535.

Senator John Lim
(503) 986-1711

Dear Editor

This July marks the 100th anniversary of Ernest Hemingway's birth, but the author's legacy is more than a fine body of literature. Hemingway's 1926 novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, glamorized bullfighting, and spurred an annual pilgrimage to Pamplona that has grown through the decades. As a Spaniard, I take pride in my heritage with the exception of this barbaric tradition Hemingway popularized.

I'm not alone. More than a million Spanish citizens have signed a petition to ban bullfighting forever. But the terrible irony is, this "Spanish tradition" is kept alive by tourists.

Former bullfighters have admitted that the animals are severely debilitated with laxatives and beatings for weeks before the fight. This hidden abuse is followed in the arena by multiple stabbings and piercings with lances and daggers until life and blood literally drain away.

Hemingway wrote lovely words, and I enjoy them as much as anybody, but he never missed an opportunity to chase, shoot, or hook an animal or fish. He was into death—right up to the moment he shot himself in the head. Fortunately,

we can admire the artistry of his words without participating in the slaughter he describes.

If you are planning to visit Spain this summer, enjoy the wonderful sights and delicious cuisine. But steer clear of the "Corrida." The torture and killing of bulls will cease only when tourists stop paying to see it.

Sincerely,
Sheba Behdaoul
PETA
PEOPLE OF THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS
London Office

THE CITY OF PORTLAND OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

Would Like For You To

Get Involved

As the City of Portland, Office of Transportation and it's partners carry out the plan details of NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., it needs contracts that can respond to

- Sheltered Markets
- Bid Opportunities

Contact Community Resources and put yourself and your ideas to work.

CONTRACTORS CAN CONTACT:
Loretta Young • City of Portland
(503) 823-6850



NE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.
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Citizens of Portland:

As Portland Fire Fighters, we play a central role in Multnomah County's public safety system, including responding to medical emergencies. The 911 EMS system is designed to be a partnership, with fire fighters as the first-responder and a private ambulance company used for transporting the patient to the hospital.

Over the past year, we have become alarmed at what we believe to be dangerous shortfalls in the performance of Multnomah County's current provider of ambulance services, American Medical Response (AMR). As part of their contract with Multnomah County, AMR made critical promises - promises that are not being kept.

Promises Made

The Multnomah County contract requires that an ambulance arrive at the scene within 8 minutes, at least 90% of the time

The contract requires that ambulance services be delivered in a non-discriminatory manner, with no area of Multnomah County receiving better or worse service than any other.

Promises Broken

Based on data from the Bureau of Emergency Communications, AMR has not met these response requirements throughout the contract, with a significant deterioration in the last year.

In addition to not meeting response time requirement generally, different parts of the county receive widely different levels of service. At various times, southwest Portland, Northeast Portland and Gresham have been particularly poorly served.

This problem can be solved, but time is short. It's up to your County Commissioners

By August 31, 1999, the Multnomah County Commission must decide whether to renew AMR's contract or to reopen Multnomah County's ambulance service to a fair and open competitive bid - the only way to ensure that we get the safe, responsible ambulance service we need.

Call Multnomah County Chair Beverly Stein and your County Commissioners. Tell them you want an open bid - and the ambulance service you were promised.

Chair Beverly Stein
248-3308

Commissioner Diane Linn
248-5220

Commissioner Serena Cruz
248-5219

Commissioner Lisa Naito
248-5217

Commissioner Sharron Kelly
248-5213

122 Arrested...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A3 mission, was inexperienced in criminal law. In addition, witnesses came forward during the 1995 post-Conviction Relief Appeal hearings, saying they were coerced by police to lie, suppress or change their initial accounts of the December 9, 1981 incident.

According to Brutus, "At this point, despite all efforts by the legal team, the system has denied Mumia his due-process rights. Now, we have to take this matter to the streets for the Court of the People to judge. July 3 is only the beginning of massive civil disobedience

actions countrywide. I will be a part of that planning process."

For more information on upcoming activities, contact Herman Ferguson and the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition at (718) 949-5153.