



February 14, 2017

The Honorable Barbara Smith Warner
900 Court St, NE
H-275
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2130 (Smith-Warner) Crime of Endangering a Minor
POSITION: OPPOSE
LOCATION: House Judiciary Committee

Dear Representative Smith Warner,

On behalf of the members and supporters of the Firearms Policy Coalition, I submit our opposition to HB 2130, a measure which creates new crimes including a firearms prohibiting misdemeanor and a Class C Felony (5 years imprisonment and a \$125,000 fine) if a minor gains access to a firearm without the owner's expressed prior consent-- including theft.

Punitively re-victimizing families, friends and parents after an accident involving a child, or a malicious act by a teen, will only decrease respect for the authority of the law and further destroys the lives of those already suffering.

Responsibility must go hand-in-hand with being an owner of any potentially dangerous item; however, our members and supporters cannot support such a broad and cold-hearted law that so harshly re-victimizes our families, friends, and neighbors for an accident involving a child or a deliberate crime committed by a minor.

Our penal system should not be based on the severity of acts of third parties, but on the acts of the individual. Once a minor has gained unauthorized access, the minor is in control of the rightful owners fate, placing responsibility for future criminal acts on the victim of the theft, in perpetuity.

Just as shocking, it's prohibiting firearms ownership for non-violent, victimless misdemeanor crimes that do not result in injury-- or mere "access". With the attached fines and jail time this proves to be an obtuse punishment, where the punishment may have greater fiscal and social costs than the underlying crime. Rather than being a teachable moment, or charging a minor with theft, it will disrupt families and communities by job loss and family separation for the rightful owner of the firearm.

For the reasons listed above we oppose the passage of HB 2130 and urge the committee to reject this measure.

In Freedom,

/s/
Philip Watson
Legislative Advocate

Cc: House Judiciary Committee, House Leadership