

## Viewpoints on Firearms Ownership

Michael Cross,  
Candidate for Oregon Attorney General  
[www.michaelcross4oregon.com](http://www.michaelcross4oregon.com)  
Email: [michael@michaelcrossfororegon.com](mailto:michael@michaelcrossfororegon.com)

4676 Commercial St SE #81  
Salem, Oregon 97302

While the thought of firearm ownership, even in the hands of a law-abiding citizen, may seem frightening, unnecessary, or even dangerous; history and FBI statistics have shown, as well as decisively proven the contrary to be true. Typically, those that hold this view have not been raised around firearms, have never owned one, and certainly have never had any firearms safety training.

It's normal to be afraid of something that we are not familiar with or have no firsthand knowledge of. However, in America we need to understand the purpose and guaranteed right of firearms ownership in the hands of law-abiding citizens.

Some see the necessity for registration and "lists" of firearm ownership by name of individual, firearm owned, and serial number. In a perfect world without evil and tyrants that would choose to perpetrate evil acts against a society, I see no problem with registrations. The problem is that history has proven over and over, that such lists become a weapon to target law-abiding citizens that have chosen to exercise their RIGHT. A list for targeted acquiescence or execution.

Not long after Adolf Hitler took power in Germany, he used gun registration lists to confiscate firearms of law-abiding citizens. People that had followed the law and registered their guns.

It's possible that without those lists, people would have kept their firearms and possibly even mounted up a defense to the dictatorship that followed. Thus, and as the survivors of the Holocaust can attest, were it not for such gun registration lists in Germany, perhaps there would have been no Holocaust at all.

In America, where legal gun ownership is constitutionally circumvented; we see an unequivocal rapid increase in crime across the board. Violent crimes in particular and markedly higher murder rates. I am referring to cities such as Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Seattle and San Francisco. When you compare these numbers to jurisdictions where firearms ownership is not heavily regulated the rates are much lower; all while making them available to law-abiding citizens that want a firearm.

These draconian laws have proven one clear fact; they prevent those that NEED to protect themselves from protecting themselves against criminals that make their occupation a career. Specifically, I am referring to people that for one reason or another do not have the physical strength to ward off an attacker due to their slight physical stature, poor health or advanced age.

Firearms also have the ability to save the lives of the people that would choose to try to cause harm, and statistics have proven this by the tens of thousands of cases. I am referring to instances where the perpetrator was warned of the presence of a firearm either by hearing the words, "I have a gun, you better go," hearing a round being chambered, or seeing the barrel of the firearm. Such actions are a deterrent to assault, theft, rape as well as murder; and again, against the weakest in our society. These are instances where the weapon wasn't even required to be used and it has SAVED LIVES.

It would be good to increase firearms safety training and make sure that firearms are not around people that for whatever reason, are not able to operate one safely. Some basic premises ingrained in our youth will go a long way toward accomplishing this:

1. Never point your weapon at something you don't intend to shoot.
2. Always treat a firearm as if it's loaded.
3. Never keep a round in the chamber.
4. Keep firearms out of the reach of people who are not trained or able to use one safely.

Education is never a bad thing.

In closing, not only do firearms save innocent lives, they could have stopped Hitler from gaining a foothold in Germany, were it not for gun registration lists. Additionally, firearms may well have prevented an invasion of Japanese forces into mainland USA, in the 1940s.

As spoken by Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, “You cannot invade mainland United States, there's an American behind every blade of grass with a rifle.”

Based on that statement from the Japanese Admiral, it was seemingly considered and then the idea abandoned, due to firearms in the hands of Americans.

As long as there's evil intent on doing harm to others, the firearm is one of the best deterrents when used properly.

Thank you for your time, and I appreciate your support of my candidacy to be the next Oregon Attorney General! The preservation of our Rights has never seen a greater time than now.

Michael Cross