

Libertarian Party of Oregon



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Libertarian Party Calls for Elimination of “Gun-Free” Campuses

Members of the Libertarian Party of Oregon (LPO) **share the nation's grief and shock of over the horrific events that took place last week at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.** We mourn those who were killed or injured by this unspeakably evil act. So similar events can be prevented, LPO members now ask our lawmakers to **focus on how such events occur.**

Virginia Tech is one of many educational institutions declared to be so-called “gun-free” zones. In a “gun-free” environment, no student, teacher, administrator, or even security personnel may carry any firearm, even if he or she has legally purchased the firearm and complies with all federal, state, and local laws.

The events at Virginia Tech, Columbine and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (the shooting of ten Amish schoolgirls) suggest that **“gun-free” zones don't work.** In these cases, violence might never have occurred, or could have been significantly reduced, if properly trained security guards, teachers, and administrators had been permitted to carry sidearms. **Every potential shooter would be aware of the fact that anyone in any part of the school might have the ability to stop him cold.** In fact, the knowledge that potential victims have already been disarmed increases the likelihood of violence!

In the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings, some Oregon legislators are calling for tighter gun controls throughout Oregon and on Oregon’s school campuses. LPO members reject this view. **Gun control has virtually no effect on crime, but disarms law-abiding citizens who wish to protect themselves.** Connecticut, whose population is approximately equal to Oregon’s, has a rate of gun crime similar to that of Oregon, although Connecticut’s gun-control laws are far more restrictive.

In the interest of our children’s safety, the Libertarian Party of Oregon urges all citizens – and especially parents – to **reject legislative proposals for “gun-free” campuses.** As the late author Robert Heinlein noted, “An armed society is a polite society.”

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