

Dear House Judicial Committee members;

I am writing you in opposition to HB 554. This piece of legislation is an classic example of really bad legislation. HB 544 makes law abiding citizens potential criminals unnecessarily.

HB 554 attacks Oregon's safest group of Firearm owners and permit holders and turns them into criminals by creating an unreasonable patch work of restricted zones that can and will vary from City to city, county to county. HB 554 does nothing to curb violent crimes by criminals but does put law abiding citizens at greater risk. I'm adding my voice to the growing number of citizens who are asking you to KILL this bad piece of legislation know as HB554 by voting No. As additional I have included some additional information!---HERE ARE EIGHT STUBBORN FACTS TO KEEP IN

mind about gun violence in America:

- 1 Violent crime is down and has been on the decline for decades.
 - 2 The principal public safety concerns with respect to guns are suicides and illegally owned handguns, not mass shootings.
 - 3 A small number of factors significantly increase the likelihood that a person will be a victim of a gun-related homicide.
 - 4 Gun-related murders are carried out by a predictable pool of people.
 - 5 Higher rates of gun ownership are not associated with higher rates of violent crime.
 - 6 There is no clear relationship between strict gun control legislation and homicide or violent crime rates.
 - 7 Legally owned firearms are used for lawful purposes much more often than they are used to commit crimes or suicide.
 - 8 Concealed carry permit holders are not the problem, but they may be part of the solution.
- Each of these facts is firmly based on empirical data
Please protect our rights Do not forward HB 554

Sincerely;
Mark Jones
Newport, Oregon
Former Mayor