

We are writing to express strong support for SB 554. Science has demonstrated that carrying concealed, loaded guns in public places can quickly escalate everyday conflicts into deadly altercations, causing tragic damage to innocent lives. The most comprehensive and rigorous study of concealed carry laws found that in states with weak permitting laws, violent crime rates were 13% to 15% higher than predicted had such laws not been in place. "Right-to-Carry Laws and Violent Crime: A Comprehensive Assessment Using Panel Data and a State-Level Synthetic Control Analysis," *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* 16, no. 2 (2019): 198–247, John J. Donohue, et al.

Recent violent crimes perpetrated on our own state and federal capitols should be objective and critically instructive lessons. Incidents of Insurrectionist groups across the country using violence to menace those who do not agree with them are increasing in frequency and causing injury and death. Violent media is also currently propagated at the highest political levels in our country and is pervasive in our society. Meta-analyses show that violent media can increase aggressive thoughts, angry feelings, physiological arousal, and aggressive behavior. These findings have practical significance, because people who view the world in a hostile manner are more likely to behave aggressively themselves. *Aggr. Behav.* 42:605-613, 2016. © 2016 Wiley.

How do lax Concealed Weapon Licenses relate to risks? It has shown that the mere presence of weapons increases aggressive thoughts, hostile appraisals, and aggression, suggesting a cognitive route from weapons to aggression. *Pers Soc Psychol Rev.* 2018 Nov;22(4):347-377. Effects of Weapons on Aggressive Thoughts, Angry Feelings, Hostile Appraisals, and Aggressive Behavior: A Meta-Analytic Review of the Weapons Effect Literature

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Another study on guns on college campuses: "Rather than deter gun violence, the most recent and most rigorous research on right-to-carry laws suggests that the laws are associated with increased violence with guns," says report co-author John Donohue, PhD, JD, law professor. "While the net effect of right-to-carry policies have negatively impacted public safety broadly, the effects are likely to be far more deleterious when extended to college campuses. Allowing students to carry firearms on college campuses would likely compromise the lives and safety of innocent students, faculty and staff." www.jhsph.edu/gunpolicy. "Firearms on College Campuses: Research Evidence and Policy Implications" Daniel Webster, ScD, MPH (JHSPH), et al.

We should not be surprised that the gun lobby-driven "cowboy legend" that has been so successfully fostered in this country means that a certain percent of the population will vocally resist gun safety legislation and profess that guns will make a public place safer. Multiple polls have shown that a majority of all voters support improved gun safety efforts. This issue should be non-political, should only be about saving lives. The economic value of weapon related sales and the lobbying power of the National Rifle Association and other gun rights activists however have assured that it is one of the most highly political and inflammatory issues in our country. It is, in particular, an exceedingly powerful force in GOP politics. The GOP has a huge number of single-issue voters that they have carefully and progressively cultivated and keep motivated on this issue. They can, and have in this state, threatened to have a fair percentage of GOP primary voters literally walk away from a representative over their issue. Should we let this continue to be a leadership failure and political control issue or should we legislate what voters truly want and science and experience demonstrate? Oregonians deserve the right to public safety. Science and experience tell us that for this to happen, restrictions need to be placed on the locations where carrying concealed weapons is allowed