

To: House Committee on Rules

From: Aileen Kaye

Date: 4-21-21

Re: "Yes" on SB 554

Dear Chair Barbara Smith Warner and Members of the Committee,

I urge a Yes vote on SB 554. I have a special interest in the -18 amendment prohibiting guns in our previously peaceful parks in Salem, Oregon.

I have watched in fear for the past several years people carrying firearms in public places. The bravery shown by Oregon legislators at gun bill hearings is beyond remarkable. Our public officials should not have to endure such stress. The constitution states one's rights end when you pose a danger.

Legislators and others in the state Capitol Building came under grave threat when a mob entered the building. If the guards would not have suddenly shown up to stop the mob, people inside the building could have easily been shot to death.

During the past year, I have had to avoid my favorite walking spots near the governor's house and Bush Park due to armed mobs taking over the streets. This has to stop.

Please pass SB 554.

Thank you.

Aileen Kaye