

House Committee On Rules:

I am writing to you because I oppose this proposed legislation, and several of the new amendments. As a retired law enforcement executive I would like to point out several issues I have with SB 554.

- This largely only impacts Oregonians who have subjected themselves to background investigations and training requirements to receive a Concealed Handgun License (CHL), not criminals. Research has consistently identified CHL holders across the nation as being more law abiding and less likely to violate the law than those who do not possess a CHL.
- This creates a patchwork of inconsistent laws and rule making across Oregon which only work to snare those who have received a CHL from their Sheriff. This is particularly in light of nebulous language that includes property and areas "around" public buildings.
- This patchwork means that firearms would have to be stored in vehicles, depending on the jurisdiction, which makes them far more likely to fall into the hands of criminals than if they were retained by the CHL possessor.
- There has been no compelling and consistent evidence presented that the current law is insufficient for protecting the people of Oregon, and only serves to prevent a CHL holder from protecting themselves or their family.

Amendments:

- The elimination of the state preemption of firearms laws only serves one purpose and that is to create a patchwork of laws and rule making that create legal trip wires for those living, working and traveling in the state. In an age where we ostensibly are trying to reduce over-policing, this serves only the opposite. And again there has been no compelling and consistent evidence shown that this will make us safer or that the current laws are insufficient.
- The addition of language from HB 2510 Firearm Storage disregards individual needs and circumstances for owners and creates unneeded new liabilities. Owners are already liable for negligence in the use of their property. Worse is the added liability to gun theft victims if their property is later used in acts by criminals. Most of the burdens in this legislation will be heaviest on the least financially able.
- The addition of "Emergency Legislation" is overbroad as applied, and only serves to prevent the people of Oregon from taking action outside the Legislature.

Please reject this legislation. Thank you for your time and service to the people of Oregon.