

Committee Members,

You have been given quite a number of ideas and stats with these hearings that should encourage you to stop this combined bill travesty from proceeding.

Preventing young children from getting their hands on a weapon due to parental lapse in judgment or your refusal to return firearm education to the schools is a far cry from taking my rights away in carrying protection as I go about my business in Oregon. The two are separate issues.

Because there are those unfamiliar with guns and the respect most owners have for them is no reason to threaten, judge, and disrespect the majority whose freedoms and rights to carry one responsibly will be nullified.

And I hope by now it is obvious to you that the gun lock idea stopping a suicidal person is futile.. I can speak from close personal experience, it will not. Guns, cars, rope, a long scarf, drugs, a cliff... if one is truly determined, your bill is NOT going to stop them.

The Democrat party is making the streets more dangerous every day and you have no stat or justification for stealing the rights of those who fall into the most crime free class of citizen in the entire country from defending themselves. And to set up a hodgepodge methodology to entrap them is shortsighted and wrong.

As a result of your tragic and degrading policies, who in their right mind would go to Portland today if they weren't forced to, without an escort or risking non compliance protection? Arriving in Portland for an evening on the town with its nighttime view of lights reflecting on the river as you approach, is now, thanks to you, a very distant memory I will never repeat. The city and its leaders is a national tragedy, especially when Oregon's elected officials in Salem condone its own staff participating in your encouraged mayhem. How embarrassing is that. Oregon will only look more foolish and vindictive if they prohibit the cleanest graphic of people from having protection and the capability of using it while simultaneously cheering on actual criminals.

If you proceed despite the common sense ideas presented to you and insist on attacking our Constitutional rights, add an amendment that holds sponsoring legislators accountable in civil court if a CHL carrier or their accompanying friends or family member is harmed from your rendering them defenseless or too encumbered to respond in time. It is a long overdue for you to be responsible for your legislative actions.

And of course embedded in your bill, in an effort to include every insult possible to said group of tax payers, your sticky fingers in our wallets raising CHL prices. That only hurts the low income citizen as you know, like your forcing the raising of gas prices.

Do not proceed with this boondoggle idea behind 554A. Put a group of rational citizens together and for once do not stack the deck which makes reasonable actions or solutions impossible. There are experts you choose to ignore in the firearm safety and knowledge world and in the mental health field. A biased gallop to poor legislation is not a legacy to be proud of. Somehow you keep getting it wrong. It seems willful and tragic. We do not deserve this kind of suppressive treatment.

All the emotion in the world won't legislate a solution when you make it so obviously unfair, unreasonable and one sided. Division is not a peacemaker tool. You should be craving workable solutions, not partisanship that reeks of a personal or disassociated agenda.

A word about the video conferencing. It is quite revealing to see the lack of poker faces some of you display, in particularly with Rep Salinas. And Rep Smith Warner openly expressing sympathy for one 911 employee's tragic experience who was in favor of the bill vs a decided lack of the same emoting for another 911 testifier who was not in favor of the bill. Quite a tell. Hard to watch.

Do not send this bill on for passage. It does not serve the People of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Sally Klein