

**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

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**NRA**

April 22, 2021

Representative Barbara Smith Warner  
House Committee on Rules  
900 Court St., Room 333  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: SB 554 A-20 - OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Smith Warner and Honorable Members of the Committee on Rules:

On behalf of the tens of thousands of National Rifle Association (NRA) members in Oregon, I appreciate the opportunity to supplement our previously submitted opposition testimony to SB 554 to address additional concerns over Amendment - 20 (A-20). The NRA vehemently opposes A-20 and its deeply flawed attempt to combine two anti-gun bills into one. I respectfully request that you oppose this legislation.

There are 197 public school districts in the state of Oregon, encompassing more than 1,200 K-12 schools. There are 17 community colleges in Oregon. And, there are 7 public universities in Oregon. SB 554's A-20 puts the lives of students across more than 1,224 campuses at risk by giving the governing boards the ability to expand "gun free zones" and prohibit concealed carry on campus. According to the Crime Prevention Research Center, "gun free zones" (areas where guns are prohibited) have been the target of more than 98% of all mass shootings.

Whereas, Oregon's approximately 300,000 Oregonians have sought and lawfully obtained CHLs for self-defense. These law-abiding licensees have undergone extensive background checks, met or exceeded firearms training criteria and have been permitted to carry a concealed handgun by their respective Sheriff. Permit holders are authorized to carry in nearly every corner of Oregon and have done so responsibly for well over 30 years. Law-abiding CHL Oregonians presence and ability can deter criminal activity, such as unlawful gun violence.

Further, it is not clear how the tragedy that unfolded at the Clackamas County Town Center on December 11, 2012 could have been prevented by the provisions of A-20 based on ambiguities within the proposed amendment. Applying a one-size-fits-all approach to firearms storage is ineffective because the needs of a rural Oregon family, and a Portland city center family can vary drastically. These provisions subject law-abiding gun owners to intense judicial scrutiny, and potential felony prosecution, not by any action of their own, but by criminals who face no accountability under this bill.

Educational and incentive-based programs, such as Eddie Eagle, not mandated government overreach into the homes of law-abiding gun owners is how Oregon can achieve - safety, community confidence and accountability.

On behalf of the tens of thousands of NRA members in Oregon, we respectfully request you oppose this legislation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Aoibheann Cline, Esq.  
State Director  
National Rifle Association - Institute for Legislative Action