

To the Committee,

I am writing to support the passage of SB 554, to eliminate the open carry of weapons in public spaces, especially schools, by those who have a "license" to carry a weapon. We do not live in a country where it is necessary to carry a weapon with you when you pick up your child at school, shop at a grocery store, purchase stamps at a post office or in a myriad of other situations where I have seen guns being carried. Last year I went to a peaceful rally at the Capitol and found men on the steps of the Capitol with school children milling about and they had visible weapons with them. These people carry weapons only to intimidate others, not for any sort of "protection" to themselves or their families. The 2nd Amendment "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." refers to a time in our history when people needed to be armed for protection, as part of the militia, guaranteeing the freedom of the people. Wake up America - we are a FREE country now. White men in America have so much freedom, it is ridiculous! Instead of the right to bear arms we should be passing legislation guaranteeing that I do not need to be afraid to attend a peaceful rally where big bully white guys are showing off their giant guns FOR NO REASON. I didn't feel the need to "bear arms" for protection and I'm just a little old woman. Our country is probably the least civilized country in the civilized world. We don't need to worry about being attacked by outsiders; we've got plenty of armed men who will attack and kill our own citizens for no reason, other than the fact that they aren't white or male. Pass legislation to protect those of us who don't feel the need to be threatened by those "bearing arms".