

Dear senators and members of the committee:

I am writing you today in opposition of SB 554.

As a lifelong Oregonian, and a registered Democrat, Oregon has always had an amazing balance when it comes to political issues. We as a state have done a great job of respecting the rights of our citizens on both sides of the political spectrum but unfortunately this bill, SB 554 goes too far when it comes to restricting Oregonians 2nd amendment rights.

The courts have already said that you can place "reasonable restrictions" on the 2nd amendment but restricting public areas for those with a valid concealed handgun license is unreasonable for the everyday Oregonian.

Citizens wishing to exercise their second amendment rights and wishing to get a concealed handgun license have to jump through some already established reasonable hoops such as, apply at your local sheriffs office, get finger printed, get your picture taken, pass a background check and then attend a firearms education and safety course.

We have already seen the stats that gun free zones and the like do little to curve gun violence in those areas. As we recently saw with the high capacity magazine ban in California being stricken down as unconstitutional I would encourage this committee to do its research into what constitutes "reasonable restrictions" on the 2nd amendment prior to moving forward with this bill and potentially using tax payer dollars down the road to litigate this should it be challenged.

Oregon is hurting from Covid-19, wildfires, unemployment, businesses closing, unrest in Portland, winter storm disasters, and an increase in depression, all while the state deals with limited funding.

Please focus on issues that need to be addressed now. Do not support SB 554.