

Honorable members of this meeting here today, like you I care deeply about protecting our fellow neighbors from harms way and appreciate you taking the time to show similar intentional action for our community. Accordingly, I am writing to you today to plea with your policy intentions, and clarify observable shortcomings of these attempts using well documented and readily available historical evidence/published facts. Aside from this proposal limiting law abiding citizens from carrying a firearm in certain areas being constitutionally unsound and factually inept and void of evidence in support, a bill to criminalize firearm possession by law abiding citizens only caters to the well evidenced fact criminals typically target "safe zones" where guns are not allowed to be possessed. Accordingly, this proposal is potentially furthering the risk of harms via gun violence with criminal intent versus preventing them. Furthermore, criminalizing firearm possession of law abiding citizens increases crime by default, as it is counter to their constitutionally granted inalienable rights, making literally thousands of citizens criminals overnight. Consequently, this proposal likely only leaves law abiding citizens defenseless and completely reliant on a third party to protect them in the tragically unfortunate situation where they may fall under attack, another proven "protective" failure time and again. The best person in a position to defend themselves form an attacker is the individual also possessing a firearm to defend themselves immediately, period. This policy clearly neglects to recognize the very well documented, common sense, life-saving power of firearm possession for self-defense of any individual. I am in serious opposition of SB554 and urge you to please vote against it. Thank you