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Re: SB 554, gun control bill

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Committee Members,

I am a fellow Oregonian, concerned citizen, and professional living and working in SE Portland. As such, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 554.

First, SB 554 is in direct conflict with We The People of Oregon. We The People need to protect ourselves in all places at all times. To restrict this in the way SB 554 does is not only contrary to law-abiding citizens, but is contrary to the Second Amendment.

In light of increased unrest and violence, now is the time to support and defend law-abiding concealed carry permit holders, not further restrict them.

It is a fundamental right for a law-abiding woman (or man) to protect herself at all times, everywhere, and not create and pass a bill that would in effect, cause her to be a criminal. This is exactly what would happen if she were to be at or near an airport, government building, college or university.

SB 554 is abhorrent in that it would harm the law-abiding woman with a Class C felony, which punishes her with up to five years in prison and a \$125,000 fine. In addition, the language of SB 554 would cause this woman to unknowingly commit a serious felony, when in fact she is merely trying to protect herself.

SB 554 also doubles the permit fees on initial applications, and 50% increase for renewals. These fees are a financial burden for low-income and single-income families.

Oregon already has plenty of laws now to discourage people from doing evil deeds. These laws need to be enforced.

Sincerely,

Zachary Ray