

First, I would like to say thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. I am writing to oppose SB 554, that is currently being considered at the legislative level. Like many of my fellow Oregon Residents I am complex in figuring out what current issue within Oregon this bill would address. By the wording within this bill, it is clear that dissolving the privilege of having a concealed hand gun license is the key point of this bill. It has nothing to do with “Public Safety”, or “A Public Health Issue” as so many representatives at the state and federal level try to portray. I believe that consideration of this bill indicates that many if not all of the legislators that want this bill passed have a poor understanding of the process and responsibilities that Concealed Carry Card holders have.

I would like to take a moment and explain the extensive process in which a CHL holder goes through in order to obtain a license. First, they must go through an intensive course that ensures they know how to properly handle a firearm, react to difficult situations, and understand their rights under the Oregon and Federal Law system. Then they have to go to a County Sheriff or Court house, submit to an extensive background check, have their finger prints put on file and pay a considerable amount in fees.

This process is not just a background check it is a registration process. The people carrying concealed hand guns legally, are responsible, honest and held at high standards. Removing the right to conceal carry on any publicly owned property, building or other establishment only makes criminals out of good people and the end results put more people in danger. It puts more people in danger because criminals know that these areas will have no one who will resist and causes a target zone within our communities.

If you consider the larger impact of this bill and the constitutional impacts it will have both on our Federal and Oregon constitutional levels, you will end this bill today!!

Thank you for your consideration,

Harry E McNall