

I was born and live in Lane County and have been a concealed handgun licensee in Oregon since 1984.

The level of potentially serious threats in downtown Eugene in the early 1980's justified obtaining and carrying daily even though the presence and function of local law enforcement and the criminal justice system provided a much higher level of public safety.

From the 1980's till 2010 I interacted on nearly a daily basis with local law enforcement departs due to the location of our business. Based on my past experiences the function of the public safety system has steadily eroded year after year and appears to only be getting worse this year.

Now that I'm in my sixties my ability to physically defend myself and family is eroding in parallel with the public safety systems.

The proposals in this bill will have no effect on those with criminal intent as has been statistically proven year after year. This bill will only further handicap the ability of law abiding citizens to reasonably defend themselves should the need arise. Gun crime data from Chicago is unarguable evidence.

Due to Oregon's major city reputations their ability to hire and retain high quality LEO's is seriously compromised. The fact that LEO hiring qualifications have been lowered to attract applicants should be alarming.

The elements within SB554 only further erode Oregon's law abiding taxpayers ability to protect themselves as local public safety elements continue to become less and less effective.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration.