

I am taking the time to write to you in strong opposition to SB554. What it does is criminalize a group of people who are concealed carry permit holders, and turns them into felons. Somebody who is currently permitted to carry their concealed firearm in certain public areas. These individuals are required to take additional training, have a background check, and to this date have never abused their concealed carry permit by committing misconduct. Do we really want to turn into a felon somebody, say a parent who might be picking up, or dropping off their child at a school, or an individual dropping off or picking up a friend or family member at an airport?

From a public safety standpoint this bill is indefensible. It targets individuals who are no threat to the safety of the public, and whose presence, in some instances, would in fact make public spaces more safe. When I pay for my concealed carry license, I expect to be able to defend myself or those around me, if there are no armed security around, and an event happens, who will stop it? When there is a threat of violence citizens should be able to have the right to protect their families and those around them, in as many situations as possible. It is beyond me why politicians, who often times acknowledge the lack of funding and other problems in law enforcement today would propose or vote on a bill such as this that takes away the abilities of local citizens to enhance law enforcement in keeping the public safe when a situation arises when that is needed. The criminals are going to have firearms and they are going to have them everywhere - they do not care if they have been told it is illegal to have them in possession or not. By taking away the rights of law-abiding citizens to carry you are giving the criminals the upper hand. How does that make sense?

Most importantly, this bill is an infringement on the constitutional rights of Oregonians. The ownership of firearms is a natural right protected by the United States and Oregon Constitutions, which all of you all have pledged to defend and uphold. To support this bill would be hypocritical to your oath of office. The continuing 2nd Amendment attacks on law-abiding, responsible, citizen gun owners by the State of Oregon and our legislature is abhorrent, these attacks do nothing to address the problem of the people who are committing the crimes - I would argue that legislation like this, if passed, would serve to increase criminal activity by real criminals and turn otherwise law-abiding citizens into felons.

Please kill this bill in committee...it infringes on rights protected by our Constitution and shouldn't be allowed to make it to the floor for a vote!