

Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measures
Chair Prozanski
Members - Senator Thatcher, Dembrow, Geiser, Heard, Linthicum, Manning

Dear Committee,

I write this letter in Opposition of Senate Bill 554. Concealed carry holders are some of the most outstanding citizens we have in this Country. Concealed carry holders help prevent and stop crimes every day. Before anyone can receive a concealed handgun license in Oregon they must first, pass an approved firearms training course, undergo an in depth background check and pay a fee. If approved they are then able to legally carry a concealed handgun. Carrying a concealed firearm allows a person to legally protect themselves without bystanders who currently are uncomfortable and unfamiliar with firearms from feeling intimidated or wary based on lack of understanding. This bill overwhelming restricts Concealed Carry holders, not the people committing violent acts. With the increase in use of illicit and mind altering drugs in Oregon violent crime is rising. My mother who is a retired public school teacher and my wife who has her degree in early childhood development both feel the need to carry their concealed handguns for the safety of themselves and our young daughters ages 2 and 4, especially in public spaces. The people who would be committing the violent crimes this bill is supposedly trying to stop already are NOT able to obtain a concealed handgun license making this bill pointless for its purpose. Almost all gun owners see the inherent good of people in society yet are prepared just in case they are wrong. This bill is stating that law abiding concealed carry holders are inherently bad people and going to commit violent crimes. The point I want to make is that SB 554 should not pass out of this committee. This bill takes away our right to safety. Please vote NO on this bill.

Thank you,
Matt Hamilton