

Good Day,

I am writing to you today in opposition of SB 554.

An Oregon CCW/CHL, while issued by the individual counties, is regulated by the state. This done with great thought and intent. It explicitly prevents localities from creating and enforcing restrictions and limitations originally granted by the State thus preventing a patchwork of inconsistent laws and enforcement.

As a holder of an ODL (Oregon Driver's License) I don't expect to find laws and enforcement different as I travel, work, and play throughout Oregon. Why should a CHL, regulated and honored by the State, be any different? Allowing localities to enact their own policies creates a fragmented and inconsistent system.

Oregon CCW/CHL holders have undergone a more in-depth background than most other individuals in the state and one that far exceeds that required to simply purchase a firearm. As a result, this is a group that is statistically less likely to commit crimes than the general population. Studies (1, 2) cite that a CHL holder is FIVE TIMES LESS LIKELY to commit a violent crime than the general population.

The ONLY group impacted by SB 554 is Oregon CHL holders; citizens who have proven they are willing to undergo extensive background checks and are not committing any crimes, much less committing violent crimes.

How does SB554 impact safety in a positive way? It doesn't. It will result in honest, law-abiding citizens becoming criminals as they deal with an inconsistent patchwork of local policies as they go about enjoying this great state. It makes no rational or logical sense and serves only to pander to interest groups.

I cannot and will not support SB 554 and urge you to do the same. SB 554 does nothing to reduce gun violence or crime and serves only to make criminals of law-abiding citizens who have undergone more scrutiny to obtain a CHL than you have done to serve in office. Please honor and maintain the statewide pre-emption in its entirety.

Thank you.

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1. Texas Department of Public Safety and the U.S. Census Bureau, reported in San Antonio Express-News, September, 2000
2. An Analysis of the Arrest Rate of Texas Concealed Carry Handgun License Holders as Compared to the Arrest Rate of the Entire Texas Population, William E. Sturdevant, September 11, 1999