

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the committee,

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 554. I am a life long Oregonian and have owned firearms for most of my life. I feel that this law is unnecessary as it will only affect lawful firearm owners and have no impact on crime or the perceived threat of danger. I carry a firearm not to take life but to protect life because I know that law enforcement can not and never will be able to protect the individual. For our own protection we must be able to overcome the disparity of force that we may someday face. This world is becoming more dangerous and the people who follow the rules are constantly being blamed for the criminals that don't. My training with firearms always stresses awareness and avoidance. If those things fail I do not want to be a victim. People during this particular time in history are going to get desperate as the economy tanks and jobs are lost. Property crime will become people on people crime. Being forced to use ATM's at banks, because of closed lobbies, is a vulnerable spot for citizens to become victims of robbery. The tools used to cause harm can not be legislated. Far more children drown in swimming pools than firearm incidents but there is no outrage. Are pools necessary? The homeless problem is out of control there are very few cities I feel safe in. I avoid Portland and Salem after seeing the protests and destruction and lawless individuals operate with impunity. This law would do nothing to help but hurt lawful American citizens. Legal, lawful firearm owners are not the threat or the problem. Trying to follow all the current laws is difficult enough why are more necessary? Isn't this an attempt to legislate a non existing problem? How about blaming and prosecuting the individual for the criminal acts not the peaceful, law abiding ,Free Americans.

Please oppose this bill.

Thank You