

Senators:

I am writing to express my vociferous opposition to SB 554. Proponents can't demonstrate the need for such legislation because there IS no need. It is just another incremental step toward the disarmament of peaceful, careful, law-abiding Oregonians. Those with concealed weapon permits are NOT a societal problem. They do NOT commit crimes. They do NOT endanger the safety or welfare of anyone other than violent, predatory criminals. Simply put, concealed weapons policy, as it has existed in Oregon for over 30 years works just fine as it is. This bill, therefore, should be killed in committee with extreme prejudice.

This bill will make you a felon if you travel near an airport with a firearm, even if you are a concealed handgun license holder. There are no exceptions and you do NOT have to enter the terminal or even leave your car. If you pick up a friend or family member and just drive near the terminal or parking lots you can be sent to prison. The bill will also make you a felon if you go near any loosely defined "public building" that has declared itself a self defense free zone.

The bill also doubles the cost of a concealed handgun license, but you really won't need one if this bill passes because, essentially, it will be worthless.

To add further insult to a complete elimination of your rights, one particularly hoplophobic senator has added an amendment to SB 554 to include an "emergency clause;" a legislative trick used to guarantee that really bad bills CANNOT be referred to a vote of the people.

We all know that the right to keep and bear arms is clearly enumerated in both the US and the Oregon State Constitutions, yet, a handful of politicians, who arrogantly think themselves wiser than our forefathers, persist in seeking to deny that right without either logical cause or Constitutional authority. Each Senator in this assemblage took a solemn oath to uphold and defend The Constitution as a condition of his or her term of office. In my view, those abrogating this oath deserve, not our votes, but our righteous scorn and derision.

Thank you for allowing my testimony.

Sincerely,

Bill S. May , Roseburg