

February 21, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation,
900 Court Street NE, Room 453,
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to SB 554

Senate Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB 554. While I understand the legislature's desire to reduce the threat of gun violence within society I strongly believe the focus of SB 554 is misguided and misdirected. Statistically the vast majority of gun violence is perpetuated by gang members, drug addicts, sociopaths, and domestic abusers. These individuals have no respect for the law or the individual rights of others.

In contrast, gun owners that have willingly followed the law and legally applied for a concealed handgun permit are required to be at least 21 years of age and to have demonstrated their ability to handle a handgun competently. The individuals that have applied for, and received, a concealed carry permit have done so with the desire to protect themselves, their family, and the general public from those most likely to offensively use a gun – drug dealers, gang members, sociopaths, etc.

Communities across the country are struggling with the conflicting dynamics of increased violence, rioting and destruction of property while simultaneously political governing bodies are contemplating dramatically reducing funding for police departments and law enforcement organizations. Individual citizens are understandably worried and taking steps to protect themselves.

Historically mass gun violence and shootings occur where the general public is most vulnerable – schools, movie theatres, shopping malls, and music concerts. By making it illegal for law abiding citizens to carry a handgun in these public environments you will be increasing the probability of more gun violence inflicted on the public by those that disregard the health and safety of innocent people. This is a draconian action to restrict our Second Amendment rights which will do nothing to measurably reduce gun violence throughout society.

“When guns are outlawed, only the outlaws will have guns.” - Louis L'Amour

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Mansfield
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