

I have been a responsible gun owner my whole adult life. Guns are collectibles, a hobby, a tool for hunting and recreation. I got a CHL a long time ago because I could. It's the American way. Did I carry a concealed firearm? Occasionally. Let's fast forward to the present and today's climate. (and NOT global warming). Our law enforcement can't seem to control the current rash of crimes. Do I feel safe? Not really. I'm pushing 80 years old and feel vulnerable. Do I carry now? All the time. I've never remotely had an occasion to resort to using it, but it's like having an insurance policy or a Visa card. Don't leave home without it.

SB 554 is not the answer. The Constitution protects our rights. Enforcement must target individuals which should violate someone's rights. Every time a person leaves their residence, they run the risk being confronted by some law official? I'm thinking in a lot of places that could end in a bad situation. Possession of heroin is a \$100 fine. Gee, drug addicts, illegal aliens and prisoners have more privileges than the average middle-class citizen CHL holder. Our forefathers were very smart people who cared about the citizens of this formally great country, which certainly can't be said for many of our current self-serving politicians. Governments duty is to protect and serve not to project and direct. We have more than enough gun laws. Better enforcement not ridiculous restrictions.

What ever happened to Freedom of speech? I know I'm reluctant to testify because I'd definitely say something which would offend someone. I believe most of the anti-gun legislation is proposed by persons without firearm experience and are so biased that they only look at one side of the equation. Maybe the solutions to all problems is to eliminate the source. Example: Is recalling Kate Brown going to fix Oregon's pathetic state government?

Our current President Biden, during the Presidential Debates remarked that "American's don't panic" Obviously he hadn't been to a supermarket. When gun control issues are proposed people purchase more guns. This is another instance of panic. What percentage of these gun purchasers are experienced, and understand the responsibilities of ownership? I visited a local gun shop the other day and the shelves were bare. Good for the manufacturers.

When I was a child my grandfather hunted pheasants and rabbits. He left his double barrel shotgun in the corner behind his chair in the living room. Did I ever think about messing with it? I'd have probably rather had a sharp stick in the eye. Different time, but parenting should sure use a makeover. Oh yeah, that responsible thing.

Please come to reason and consider the complications this bill will inflict on all of us. Is it really going to stop crime? Is this going to guarantee better protection than I can provide myself with a CHL and a firearm? Does anyone have any common sense anymore? This is a totally bad idea and should die in committee.

Thanks for your time, and I'm not sorry if I offended anyone.

Walt Ryder