

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members Dembrow, Gelser, Heard, Linthicum, Manning Jr.

My name is Dr. Emil Kunkel and I come before you in opposition to Senate Bill 554.

Common sense seems to be lacking in the introduction of this bill. Does it make sense to violate the United States Constitution, as well as that of Oregon's Constitution, by further restricting the right of law abiding citizens to defend themselves and others? NO, IT DOES NOT! And this is being proposed in the face of widespread police defunding. We all know that criminals do not follow laws. In other countries, armed crimes have been shown to increase following increased controls on gun ownership/use. If we were to take a true objective look at the problem that is being proposed, we would quickly come to the understanding that law abiding CHL holders are not contributing to the problem, but are in fact mitigating the problem by reducing the amount of violence being carried out by lawless individuals. If we truly want to fix the problem of gun violence, we would expect our elected officials to introduce legislation that educates and empowers individuals in the proper and safe use of these tools.

I expect my elected officials to strive to use their given authority for the greater good while maintaining and defending the God-given rights of the people. I also expect them to be in possession of logical faculties of the mind so that they can properly serve their constituents. It is unfortunate that what I see here makes me question the veracity, competence and intent of the sponsors of SB 554.

I strongly advise the committee to oppose SB 544.

Thank you,
Dr. Emil Kunkel