

21 February 2021

Chairman Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher –

Please oppose and kill Senate Bill 554.

1. The bill will not improve public safety since the only people the bill is aimed at are legitimate Concealed Handgun Licensees, who would lose the affirmative defense described in ORS 166.370 (3)(g). The bill does not address any other type of gun owner, any type of criminal, any type of rioter, anyone but folks who diligently take the time and acquire the knowledge to earn a Concealed Handgun License (CHL). The bill removes protections from CHL holders.
2. A violator could face a fine \$125,000 or 5 years in prison for what could be no more than an oversight on the part of a CHL holder. Suddenly, a CHL holder collecting his adult children at the Redmond Airport parking lot for Christmas, who forgot that this was now a weapons-free zone, is a felon. Although deeply unjust, that is the clear intent of the bill.
3. Mass shootings are a tragedy. Generally, in places like Sandy Hook and Parkland, they happen because evil perpetrators know they will not encounter armed resistance. With an estimated 393 million guns owned by Americans, it is absurd public policy to think that the state can control an evil minority by trying to make felons of law-abiding CHL holders.
4. As a CHL holder and a former manufacturer of non-lead shotgun ammunition and non-lead police training ammunition (HEVI-Shot), this bill strikes me as aimed at entrapping CHL holders. I know many law enforcement personnel, but none who think persecuting CHL holders is wise public policy.

As a taxpayer and citizen, I want to believe that the Oregon Senate is a place where the overriding concerns are wise public policy in an inclusive atmosphere that accommodates all sides of a proposal. Please kill Senate Bill 554.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Nauman". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Ralph Nauman
Retired CEO, ENVIRON-Metal, Inc., Makers of HEVI-Shot