

Chair Prozanski and Vice-chair Thatcher, thank you for opposing SB 554. I believe the intention behind these amendments is the safety of Oregonians, but they are addressing a problem that doesn't exist. According to the pro-gun-control website, found at <https://concealedcarrykillers.org/oregon/>, there are no cases where these amendments would have changed the outcome: all the shootings recorded were away from the proposed restricted areas. More so, shootings within the proposed areas have been done by individuals that would not be affected by the amendments (not concealed-carry permit holders). Passing SB 554 would provide no additional safety and, as James Madison said, only "poison the blessing of liberty" for those already following the rules. The fee increases do not seem to be tied to an increase in work or cost associated with handling applications. That would make the fee increase punitive in nature. If the fees need to be adjusted for a legitimate reason, I don't think they will need to be doubled, but that can be addressed separately away from SB 554. Again, thank you for your time, service, and opposing SB 554.
-Ryan Bizeau