

To: **Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee,**

My name is Gretchen Bates. I am strongly opposed to SB554. I believe the true intent of this bill is to deprive Oregonians of their Second Amendment rights and the natural rights of self-defense. The bill would result in the arbitrary patchwork creation of “gun free zones” where citizens would be unable to defend themselves against an increasingly dangerous criminal element. It is not about public safety.

I urge the members of this committee who would be inclined to support this bill to consider:

- 1) It is not only in direct conflict with the Second Amendment, but it also violates Article 1, Section 27 of the Oregon Constitution that states: “The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defence of themselves...” The framers of our Oregon Constitution understood that citizens have a natural right to self-defense.
- 2) According to the [Crime Prevention Research Center](https://crimeresearch.org/2018/06/more-misleading-information-from-bloombergs-everytown-for-gun-safety-on-guns-analysis-of-recent-mass-shootings/), “gun free zones” (areas where guns are prohibited) have been the target of more than *98% of all mass shootings*. Source: <https://crimeresearch.org/2018/06/more-misleading-information-from-bloombergs-everytown-for-gun-safety-on-guns-analysis-of-recent-mass-shootings/>
- 3) The wily-nily creation of different laws on concealed carry in different municipalities, counties, ports, school districts, and colleges and universities, would make it nearly impossible for CHL holders to track. Thus, it would result in a discriminatory patchwork of potential “felony traps” for CHL holders.

This bill is arbitrary bad policy. I urge you all to act to kill this bill. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

-Gretchen Bates

Rural Burns Oregon