

"Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher"

My name is Jerry Darbyshire. I come before you in opposition to Senate Bill 554. It would expose permit holders to unknowingly commit a serious felony by entering "adjacent grounds" accidentally. Different local governments and other areas described in the bill would have different "gun free zones". This would be confusing and would make it hard to keep track of where concealed carry is prohibited. It sets a trap for law abiding citizens to be charged with a felony for a simple mistake. It also leaves permit holders without a viable means of self defense in these areas. Violent crime is on the rise, especially Portland, and senior citizens, people with disabilities, and those living in high crime areas may have a need for concealed carry. SB 554 would also increase permit fees on initial applications, and renewals. Fees substantially impact access to right-to-carry. Increasing fees on carry permits places financial burden on the Second Amendment and taxes individuals out of exercising their Constitutional Rights. This is especially true for people with low income. Bill 554 would have no effect on criminals who commit the vast majority of gun violence. I urge you to not let this bill to pass out of your committee. There is no need to further restrict law abiding permit holders.

Thank you,