

I am a lifelong Oregonian and gun owner. In my late teens, I was asked to protect this country's interests in Panama serving in the Army and carrying a rifle. One night when I was just 17 yrs old, I stood between a crowd of thousands of Panamanians, yelling, and threatening to invade the United State Canal Zone. I was holding that rifle and 200 live rounds. We were able hold our line and the crowd stayed back. That weapon was never fired in anger but did it's job by conveying the consequences of a bad actor doing the wrong thing.

I have had Concealed Handgun License for more than 15 years. I carry the permit and gun for my protection, my family's protection and my fellow citizens protection. In this time of heightened anarchy such as with the Portland riots, and with diminishing Law Enforcement at the state and local level we need protection.

I believe criminals think twice of doing of acts of violence because they know someone dressed in casual clothes may be carrying a weapon. SB554 won't stop crime or protect people, it will do the opposite and make many current CHL owners into criminals. CHL holders are responsible people who have taken the time to learn and train about protection. SB554 would simply disarm this layer of protection, so I urge you to reject this proposal.

Thank You for your time.