

Chair and Members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Dan De Freval and I live in Washington County. I am the father of a child in elementary school and Navy combat veteran.

As of July 2, 2020, Oregon HAS ISSUED 275,655 Conceal Carry Permits, to 7% of Oregonians.

From 2012 to 2020, US overall statistics for Concealed Carry Permits have increased on average 101% for men and 204% for women. For many states where racial demographics are released in this arena, permits grow at a 55.6% faster rate for blacks than whites. Over the past 8 years, black women have shown the largest trend upward with a national average of twice the PERMITTING rate to other races. Raising the fee of application, while limiting the areas to utilize this right disproportionately affects women of color and minorities at a far greater rate than this committee should be comfortable with.

Secondly, the national average in available state statistics in 2019 showed that firearm violations occur among law enforcement at the rate of 16.5 per 100,000 officers. Among concealed carry permit holders, this rate drops dramatically to 2.4 incidents per 100,000, which is just 1/7th of the rate for police. Additionally, the likelihood of a concealed carry permit holder to be convicted of a felony, violent or non-violent, was, per Oregon 2016 statistics, 0.0074%. As Ms. Wimmer pointed out this morning, Law Enforcement Officers have had negligent discharges while instructing others on the safe use of firearms.

Over the past 12 years, national statistics show an exponential growth of concealed carry permits nationwide, while a distinct correlation and causation of lower murder and violent crime being committed per 100,000 adults. Repeatedly, during this hearing, I have heard the testimony of violence and murder, without citing any context as to whether or not these crimes have been committed by anyone with a Concealed Handgun Permit. Statistics distinctly show that Concealed Handgun Permittees commit less violent crime and firearm infractions than even our trusted law enforcement members.

In conclusion, the Human Rights Campaign's annual State Equality Index has rated Oregon again as one of the highest states "Working Toward Innovative Equality", with the most comprehensive legal protections for our vibrant and beloved LGBTQ+ community. As a combat veteran, father, and community member, I want to see everyone in our state be able to protect themselves and their loved ones, regardless of race, creed, gender, orientation, or financial demographic. If this committee, elected by Oregon, truly values protecting the lives of Oregonians, Senate Bill 554 shall be discarded in its entirety.

Thank you.