

I strongly OPPOSE SB 554.

This bill is nothing more than an attack on law abiding citizens, citizens who have followed the law, have had a background check done, have been finger printed and have been granted by the state a card to legally carry concealed, even though this is a constitutional right these citizens still followed the state law and went through the steps to lawfully carry for the purpose of self-defense and defense of others. This bill only tries to make criminals out of those who are law abiding and does nothing to protect the people.

With further defunding of the police and the stripping of armed security guards throughout the US it has never been more important to have the ability to protect yourself and those around you. When it comes to survival you are your own first responder this has been proven time and time again but more so this last year of 2020. *"In just two days -- Aug. 21 and 23 -- police closed at least 38 calls to 911 without police response or contact with the caller, according to emergency dispatch records."* (Bernstein, Maxine, "Portland police leave 911 calls on hold for hours, then closed them without response, record shows." *The Oregonian, The Oregonian, Updated Jan 22, 2021; Posted Jan 22, 2021*, <https://www.oregonlive.com/crime/2021/01/911-calls-on-hold-for-hours-then-portland-police-closed-them-without-response-records-show.html>)

I am for further education when it comes to firearms training, whether it be funding programs to make them more accessible or requiring a training course when applying for CHL if it is affordable/accessible for everyone. Instead of making more unconstitutional laws that try to criminalize law abiding citizens why don't we focus on making sure the existing laws actually work.

I'll end with this statistic taken from www.gunstocarry.com whose sources are from statistical pages on state government websites and FBI reports. *"When Texas and Florida data is combined it shows that CCW permit holders are convicted of felonies and misdemeanors at a rate of 2.4 per 100,000. While among police the rate is 16.5 per 100,000 officers. Texas and Florida have some of the highest rates of CCW permit holders but the figures are similar in other states with less permit holders. In summary CCW permit holders are convicted of crimes at less than a sixth of that for police officers."* Please strike down this bill and any like it, you have sworn to protect the rights of the people not pass laws that hinder them from exercising those rights. Thank you for your time and again please oppose this or any other bill that infringes on our constitutional rights.