

My name is Bella Byers. I live in Clatsop County, and I am an 18 year old college student. I strongly oppose SB 554. I have been raised around guns and was taught gun safety my whole life. As a homeschooler, I have always felt safe at home knowing that if any intruder tried to enter our home, I would be protected by my parents or one of my older brothers with a gun. I wouldn't have to hide in a closet and wait for the cops to arrive before I felt safe. Now that I am attending a public Community College, I have never felt more unsafe. Being 18, I'm not old enough yet to get my CCL. I must rely on legal CHL holders to keep me safe while I am on campus, or other public spaces. There are no armed guards on the campus. There are no armed guards in most public buildings. Under SB 554, even if I carry pepper spray on campus, or in public areas, I am breaking the law. How does a young 18 year old woman keep herself safe? How am I supposed to fight against the criminals who are bent on causing destruction around them? Please vote against SB 554. Please do not take away the rights of CHL holders to protect people like me. Please don't take away my future freedom to legally obtain a CHL and protect myself and my family. Thank you.

Bella Grace Byers