

Greetings,

My name is Gabriel Byers, I am a college student at Clatsop Community College and a volunteer firefighter. I've been listening to the hearing for SB 554 which started at 8 AM on February twenty-second. I've been appalled by the testimonies in favor of this bill, they've deployed dishonest tactics by hiding behind "the children" in schools. They are dishonestly concealing their objectives of disarming American citizens, and I am ashamed for them by their means of doing so. Since they want to use the example of "the children" in schools and colleges, I believe it would make sense to ask them. I am nineteen years old, currently attending college for my associate criminal justice degree, I have one term left before I graduate with that degree. After graduation I intend to reenter the college to obtain a degree in business and finances. The time I feel the most unsafe is when I'm on college campus, the reason being is the disarmament of fellow students and teachers. I've attended the college for over a year and have never been presented with an active shooter escape plan. In my time of attendance, I've never seen a firearm on campus by any of the staff, nor have I ever seen a police officer on campus. This does not make me feel safe in anyway. I am familiar with the police and sheriff response time to my location which would range between 12-18 minutes, and I lack faith in the thought that many of us would be alive to see their arrival. I don't claim to be an expert in threat analysis; however, I do see the potential threat on the campus and being a first responder I realize the tragedy that would take place within the first minutes of an attack. Now that I've discussed my concerns, lets discuss the solution. Allow trained teachers, students, and staff to carry firearms for the protection of fellow students and myself. This is not a complicated process, if individuals display

firearms on campus or choose to conceal their firearms, it would be a huge deterrent for anybody with the notion to attack my school.

Lets step away from the idea of a active shooter, lets take a look at previous crimes that have occurred on my campus which included rape, fondling, incest, statutory rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson. How many of these crimes could have been prevented with the display or use of a firearm (probably not the incest, that would be awkward) all of them would have been preventable. I have failed to fully advocate for all of the adverse effects that will come into play if this gets passed, but I can summarize by stating it would have serious negative effects on Oregon students, and law abiding CCL holders. I believe anybody in favor of this bill passing is an advocate of student death in Oregon, and holds no regard for the safety of children, my college friends, and my personal safety. Please oppose passing this bill, and please become an advocate for us, the youth of Oregon.

-Gabriel Byers