

Testimony of Commissioner Patty Dorroh on SB 554
Harney County, Oregon
70839 Crane Buchanan Road, Burns OR 97720

February 22, 2021

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee.

I am a Harney County Commissioner and writing in strong opposition to SB 554. My constituents and I are incredulous that this bill is moving forward, and they have asked that I submit this written testimony in strong opposition.

This bill would give local government and entities the authority to place limits on constitutionally guaranteed rights to bear arms for self-defense.

Our objections to this bill include:

- On the surface, this can be seen as giving choice to local entities to decide what's right for their community; however, there are serious implications for freedom, safety, and second amendment rights in authorizing local policies limiting or precluding affirmative defense for possession of legally licensed concealed weapons and modifying the definition of public building for specific limitations of legal self-defense protections.
- Gun carry exists for good reason and flipping a switch between which buildings or properties allow it, even with signage, would turn our state into an impossible place to carry.
- Seeks a doubling of the CWL fee in this bill, which we oppose.
- Creates a felony trap for anyone who would exercise their freedom of choice of how they want to protect themselves.
- In light of many efforts to reduce police forces and their funding, this bill is especially short sighted and harmful to personal and public safety overall.
- Turns the local control topic on its head. Proposals that prohibit a "one size fits all" approach are generally something counties seek; but when it's a *fundamental individual right* being proposed for restriction or limitation at the local level (rather than a choice of some optional programs or services), then local control must never supersede and infringe on our constitutional rights and freedoms.
- Local decision and control should not be used as a tactic or strategy to chip away or undermine fundamental freedoms and rights. There is a big difference between retaining local school district choice whether or not to contract for a School Resource Officer as a local decision, and the difference of enabling various local jurisdictions and entities to place restrictions on the ability to exercise fundamental individual rights of safe carry and self-defense protections.

Oregon elected officials swear an oath to protect the natural rights inherent to the people in the Oregon Constitution. One of those rights is described in Article 1 Section 27, "The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defence [sic] of themselves."

Please oppose any further work on this bill. Amendments cannot correct the violations of the state and federal constitution this bill would try to make permissible.

Sincerely,

Patty Dorroh
Harney County Commissioner
On behalf of myself and my constituents