

Thank you Chair Prozanski and Vice Chair Thatcher for the opportunity to speak with you against SB 554.

My name is Elaine Woods and I live in Washington County.

If SB 554 is passed, and:

A city, county, metro service district or airport, or

A school district, college or university decides to restrict concealed handgun right to carry, will they:

Be required to increase their funding in order to provide added protection for the public and for our children? Especially since school based resource officers have recently been removed from several school buildings.

Or will they be prepared to be sued by those injured due to compliance with this law?

Since you have written and are responsible for this bill, you should be prepared to be sued due to injuries or death brought about by compliance with this draconian measure.

It's interesting to me that rioters continue to commit violence and destruction after almost a year, and if arrested, which few are, they are generally released immediately back into the public. Also, you are willing to release criminals from jail due to COVID or to a change in your perception of what is legal, and release them into public society while causing citizens to be charged as felons for simply wanting to protect ourselves against criminals.

Police are being defunded or may have to decrease staff due to budget shortfalls. Mike Reese testified that his deputies now take 30 minutes to respond to a crisis. With less protection from law enforcement, people will find it necessary to defend themselves and their loved ones.

Since my ability to defend myself is a God-given right, rather than a government issued right, my ability to defend myself is beyond your ability to take it from me.

You have been ignoring the Oregon Constitution, which clearly states that the Capitol is to be open to the public whenever the legislature is in session, and yet it is not. If you do not follow written state law, how can you expect the public to choose to follow laws that would restrict our right to defend ourselves and our loved ones, when no one else may be able to?

You know that this law will be challenged, and will eventually be thrown out since it is clearly against the Constitution. But as I stated earlier, the right to protect ourselves is a right given to us by God, not by you.

Please do the right thing for Oregonians, and just kill this bill. Vote NO on SB 554.