

The rise in anti-democratic extremism that we've witnessed in places like the Michigan Capitol building, as well as in the US Capitol in DC has been alarming. Local officials need tools to protect those places essential to the functioning of government. SB 554 would help to accomplish this.

Opponents of SB 554 and similar bills like to say that gun-free zones are magnets for mass shootings. There is no data to support this. Mass shootings usually take place where the shooter has personal connections. Often, those committing mass shootings take their own lives or are killed by police. They are not looking for a "safe" place to kill people.

No location should ever be required by the government to allow firearms. Currently Oregon law forces schools, colleges, and local government buildings to do so. Sadly, research shows that current policies lead to an increase in injury and death.

I want to say unequivocally that guns have no place in schools and day care centers. They only increase the risk of unintentional shootings, as well as the risk of a child having access to a firearm.

SB 554 will help keep guns out of schools, off college campuses, and help give local officials the tools they need to protect buildings essential to the functioning of government.