

I am Patrick Iler residing in Central Point.

I thank the Chair and the committee for the opportunity to testify today.

I am in opposition to SB554.

I believe it's important to point out that the armed protests at the capitol referred to by a few of the sponsors and proponents of this bill has never resulted in an event or situation for which they attempt to allude to or are in fear of. This bill is about CHL holders, not open carry. So, it can be assumed that bringing to the hearing an example that is not applicable to this legislation is designed to create an emotional response in favor of the bill.

I'd like to address the proponents and sponsors of this legislation. CHL holders by their very nature would not normally be known by you to have or be carrying a firearm. And again, by their very nature, they would not tell you they are carrying concealed. The only likely way you would generally know if they have a firearm is if they found themselves using that concealed firearm to protect you and themselves from extreme violence.

I would like to note for the record that 99% of the testimony given by the sponsors and proponents of this bill thus far testified that SB554 should be passed so that they and people who think the same way as them can "feel safe". Legislation should be passed for common sense reasons to address real problems or issues, not to address the unreasonable fears of a small segment of our population. I would ask the sponsors and proponents of this legislation to exercise reasonableness and common sense, and realize that nothing in this legislation would prevent the action of a determined individual bent on causing harm with a firearm, within or without a facility described in the bill. However, you and I can take common sense precautions and actions designed to first and foremost, dispel unreasonable fear surrounding firearms through education and discussion, and others such as being willing to strictly and forcefully enforce our current laws regarding the unlawful use of firearms and other crimes.

Please reject this legislation at the committee level.

Thank you for your time and willingness to listen with an open mind.

Patrick Iler  
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