

Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher

My name is Karen Flaherty.

I come before you in opposition to Senate Bill 554.

I live in Josephine county and I'm a mother of two young children. I am not a gun owner, in fact I feel fairly uncomfortable handling a gun at all, but I support the right of lawful gun ownership. I have two close friends, both of which are women (one in her 70's and one in her 40's), that have Concealed Handgun License (CHL), and carry their guns with them each time they leave the house. They went through all of the necessary training, met all the legal requirements and paid the fee to be able to do so. Both of these women are responsible, law abiding people, who are capable of defending themselves from harm and would come to the assistance of any one of you, if the need ever arose.

These new proposed limits around CHL will only make it harder for law abiding citizens to protect themselves and each other. A criminal doesn't care where they can or can't have a gun. People with a CHL are far more likely to stop a crime then commit a crime with those weapons. There are countless examples of CHL holders stopping active shooters or detaining criminals until law enforcement arrives. Please do not restrict the rights of legal gun owners any further. I feel less safe in Josephine County then I ever have, and honestly this bill's further restriction of a CHL holder's ability to defend themselves and other innocent people only adds to my discomfort.

Thank you for considering the views of the people.