

Dear Legislators and Fellow Oregonians,

Thank you for your public service.

As a resident of the Metro area, I am concerned that this bill is not aligned with the needs or priorities of Oregonians, and I would like to voice my opposition to this proposal.

Events of the past year have shown that we need a simpler, more uniformly applied standard of justice, equitable for all, without a patchwork of exceptions and special cases.

This bill expands an already complex legal framework to create local provisions, making it easy for Oregonians to accidentally violate the law and become felons, rather than a common and uniform framework of law across the state. This bill creates an environment of fear for those who simply wish to lawfully defend themselves, which is not a reasonable or equitable outcome. As we all know, this law simply restricts law-abiding citizens, without any real tangible benefits... as criminals by definition ignore such laws.

The entire notion of "gun-free zones" has been debunked as another failed early-1990s policy, and it makes no sense to continue digging the hole deeper. Shouldn't we aspire as Oregonians to learn from the mistakes of the past and move forward, together?

Let's find alternate solutions that uphold and protect the rights of law-abiding citizens, rather than punishing citizens for the behavior of criminals, and preventing citizens from defending themselves without the risk of severe legal repercussions. It is a well-known fact the concealed carry holders offend at rates lower than police themselves, so there is no justification in fact for these proposed changes, and emotions are not a solid basis for the rule of law.

Wasn't this bill attempted last year without success? Shouldn't we learn from that and move on? At what point does this become a "pet project" which is not a good use of the state's resources?

Why are we attempting this again instead of focusing on the more pressing priorities of the day, included but not limited to judicial and prison reforms, pandemic relief, and setting Oregon up for a more fair and equitable future?

In this light, this bill seems quite regressive, stuck in a legislative world we moved on from 20-30 years ago, and I would encourage its supporters to discard it entirely and focus on more mainstream issues that matter more to all Oregonians and help create a path toward an equitable and prosperous future for all.