

I strongly oppose SB 554.

I am a 25 year Air Force Vet, I have 2 children and my wife and I both have concealed weapons training and permits. She carries all the time, myself rarely. She carries constantly for one specific reason, she is a woman who meets at remote sites with clients that she may never have met. To take away this right and safety factor would be an absolute travesty and I will, hold anyone responsible for this bill, personally accountable if anything was to ever happen to her if this bill was passed.

I waited all four hours this morning to submit verbal testimony and never got a chance. I think that this was not in line with the democratic process, it was a crime stopping the verbal testimony with almost 200 people still in the cue. I object to the way that was handled.

On the matter of the bill. First, it's not an emergency and this should have been put on the ballot for the people to vote on. This is an egregious subversion to our democratic process. Second, proponents of the bill simply stated that they were interested in solving gun violence; if that was the true case, they would do something to curb criminals vs law abiding citizens. As stated in testimony, concealed permit holders are the absolute cream of the crop in lawful activities. Banning that group (concealed carry permit holders) is simply insane. Yes HB 554 authors, you are mentally ill!

Last, the greatest irony of this bill is that it attempts to curb violence by banning "concealing Weapons" Concealing weapons is what criminals do to enter a soft area. This gives them the element of surprise and confusion and generally achieves positive results. The SB554, on the other hand bans legal concealed carry. These members of society are not trying to deceive anyone to achieve a tactical advantage, rather they are there to help balance the scales against the criminals that know there are concealed carry members possibly in a building. On the other hand, if criminals know there are no concealed carry people allowed, the criminals once again, regain the tactical advantage. Why do you think a police force works? It's not because of sheer number; a crowd with an agenda could easily take out any police force in America. A police force works because of deterrence, just knowing they are there stops many crimes. Concealing a weapon illegally is a criminal act; you are not going to sway a single criminal to stop "concealing weapons" if you ban legal "concealed carry". What you are really doing is setting up soft targets for the criminals to prey upon. Maybe a little history lesson in SunTsu, The Art of War, should be required reading for the authors and supporters of SB554.

I strongly suggest you kill this bill now!