

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and committee members,

I am writing to state my opposition to SB554. This legislation does nothing to make people safer, and I would argue actually creates an environment where people are less safe. CHL holders are not the perpetrators of gun violence. CHL holders actually have stopped gun violence before police could arrive. CHL holders go through a rigorous background and fingerprint check, and complete a knowledge, safety, and range course. Most CHL holders I know practice regularly, keep up to date on the jurisdictional laws, and take carrying a loaded firearm very seriously. They are some of the most responsible of our society, are not criminals, and shouldn't be treated as such.

This legislation would create a landmine of jurisdictional restrictions that would be almost impossible to navigate, the outcome of which would make responsible, law-abiding citizens into felons. It creates a punitive atmosphere for law abiding citizens, while greatly reducing a person's right to self protection.

Criminals do not qualify for CHL nor do they care about laws. This legislation does not provide any positive impact on society by reducing gun violence, and should not be passed out of committee.

Thank You for your consideration,

Belinda A. Coalman