

Submitter: Josh Kulla
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2007

I urge legislators to reject HB 2007 in its entirety. This bill flies in the face of long-established legal precedent that gives state laws and regulations precedence over local regulations. Allowing any governing body to enact its own set of firearms regulations will create an impossible maze of regulatory compliance that the average citizen will find impossible to comply with, even with the best intentions. In addition, enacting restrictions on the legal possession of firearms, whether by concealed handgun license holders or others, on the "adjacent grounds" near public buildings will create an even bigger problem of both legal compliance as well as enforcement.

In many cases, for example, residences in neighborhoods sit side by side with school facilities. If a school district enacts a policy prohibiting CHL holders from carrying a legal firearm on school grounds, HB 2007 would also mean license holders would also be prohibited from possessing firearms on grounds adjacent to the school. Now, if those same CHL holders also happen to live in a residence that is considered "adjacent" to the school, that person would NEVER be able to legally leave his or her place of residence while otherwise legally carrying a firearm. That person would, by virtue of merely living near a school, be in violation of this law the moment they left their property, and without ever setting foot on school grounds. That is just one of many such examples that would be created by this ill-considered policy. But, as with virtually all gun-control measures, none of this is actually about public safety. It is, instead, about the continued restriction of our inherent right to self-defense as citizens, and our inherent right to be free from criminal violence.

These and other measures of this type are solely about making legal firearms ownership more difficult, more expensive, more onerous, and more legally perilous. Instead of trying to eliminate human rights, including the right to self-defense, I would suggest that legislators instead devote their time to ensuring that violent criminals are properly prosecuted. In addition, legislators need to double down on a new commitment to properly funding defense attorneys across the state, ensuring that proper mental health care is available for those who need it, making available a massive increase in drug rehabilitation facilities and the staffing to go with that, as well as summoning the political will to remove drug addicts and criminals from the thousands of encampments clogging our public spaces. This will take a years-long commitment to changing the current direction of Oregon politics, but doing so will result in a huge decrease in violent crime, property crime and the resultant suffering of both victims and offenders.

Focus on the important issues at hand, please, and stop attempting to blame all of

Oregon's woes on legal firearm owners by backing legislation that will have zero impact on public safety. Thank you.