

Submitter: Lisa Brown
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2007

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to oppose HB 2007. I have concerns about restrictions in public places including outside grounds, which may cause innocent carry holders to inadvertently commit a crime by straying onto grounds for which that they are not aware there are restrictions. As these restrictions may change from time to time, keeping up with all the restricted properties places an undue burden on law abiding citizens.

Secondly, according to the FBI reports under the Obama administration, over 95% of mass shootings occur in gun-free zones. Marking areas as gun-free notifies non-law abiding persons that their potential violent acts will not be countered by defensive weapons. Criminals do not care about the law. Such laws, as are proposed in this bill, will only deter law abiding citizens, not criminals. We see this time and time again. Just this last weekend, all the gun crime reports in the city of Portland that I read were committed by persons not legally entitled to carry a weapon (felons). This bill would have done nothing to prevent these crimes; indeed, existing laws did not deter these crimes.

Carry laws exist to allow the public to defend themselves and others under immediate threat of violence. This right is protected under our Second Amendment. No licensed concealed carry holder in history has committed a mass shooting or murder to my knowledge. With police staffing shortages and lack of prosecution and detention of violent criminals, limiting self defense in any way just makes no common sense. Please vote no on this bill.