

Tim LeMaster
HB 2007 Testimony

I oppose HB 2007.

It is especially ridiculous for the legislature to consider this in a time when the government is literally dismissing gun possession crimes due to a lack of funding for defense attorneys.

“The next most common primary charge was for weapon crimes, which accounted for 16% of dismissed felonies, while person crimes, which include assault and robbery, accounted for 12%.”

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/oregon-public-defender-shortage-300-cases-dismissed-93871068>

The legislature needs to triage and prioritize with a sane minded reality check on what is actually happening in Oregon and in the high violence areas such as Portland metro. How about putting energy and priority into ensuring current laws that can prevent violence be carried out before making up new laws that will create a new criminal class of people who have been vetted to legally carry concealed firearms.

The violence reduction priority of the state should be ensuring funding of public defense attorneys, increased police presence in high crime areas, addressing fundamental social issues that create the climate of violence in the first place.

Not targeting vetted lawful gun owners.

Expanding restrictions for vetted conceal carry authorized persons to not allow them to have their preferred form of self-defense ON adjacent GROUNDS near public facilities is ridiculous. I often conceal carry when I go into downtown Portland. A location that is known to be dangerous at this point due to lack of police presence. Implementing this law will make criminals of people such as myself who are simply walking around areas that could be adjacent to city hall, parks and more public areas. Especially as referenced above, known violence perpetrators are being let loose into the community.

Any legislation attempting to incrementally increase restrictions for lawful conceal carry holders should be required to show data supporting the notion that those who lawfully applied and were processed and vetted to carry concealed weapons are some sort of public safety danger.

Especially for simply possessing that firearm.

As it stands those who are inclined to perpetrate gun violence, homicide, are not going to have an epiphany to not commit that heinous violence simply because there is a policy in place to not carry a gun in adjacent or accompanying grounds.

Thank you,
Tim LeMaster

