

Submitter:

Kate Shannon

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB698

As a mother and a woman, my top priority is the safety of my children and myself. I refuse to be left defenseless in a world where violent criminals do not follow the law. Yet, SB 698 would do exactly that—prohibit legally armed individuals from carrying in certain public spaces, effectively disarming those of us who have gone through the proper channels to obtain a CHL and who take personal protection seriously.

This bill does not deter criminals—who, by definition, do not follow the law—but instead makes law-abiding women like myself more vulnerable by ensuring we are defenseless in precisely the places where an attack is most likely to occur. I should not be forced to rely on luck or hope that help will arrive in time when faced with a violent threat.

Time and again, we have seen that violent criminals seek out soft targets—places where they know no one will be able to fight back with the means to thwart their actions. By creating more of these areas, SB 698 emboldens those who wish to do harm while stripping responsible gun owners—especially women—of the ability to defend themselves and their families.

The reality is that when seconds count, law enforcement is often minutes away. As a mother, I cannot afford to wait for help that may not arrive in time. Disarming trained, law-abiding citizens removes a critical layer of protection in life-threatening situations and puts innocent lives at risk. I urge lawmakers to reject SB 698 and focus on policies that hold criminals accountable, rather than punishing responsible citizens who simply want to protect themselves and their loved ones.