

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing to voice my STRONG OPPOSITION to SB 698.

This bill would remove the affirmative defense protection from Concealed Handgun Licensees possessing a firearm in certain buildings & **nearby grounds**, resulting in a Class A misdemeanor conviction & 1 year in jail (& a FELONY for non-CHL holders!). It also expands the MANY public places already off-limits to law-abiding gun owners.

Concealed handgun license holders are among the most law-abiding citizens in our society. We go through training, a thorough background check & in-person interview with the Sheriff's Office before being granted the "privilege" of exercising our 2nd Amendment right of self-protection. The fact that this legislature would deliberately target the MOST law-abiding Oregonians is frankly disgusting. Statistics show that the ONE thing that stops an active criminal shooter (98% of which occur in "gun-free zones") is an armed, trained individual capable of neutralizing the threat. When seconds count, police are minutes or more away, making us ALL First Responders. **Why on earth would this legislature want FEWER First Responders available to protect the innocents?**

As a lawfully armed & trained female, I have a fighting chance against a larger male attacker. This ridiculous & dangerous bill will not only eliminate a woman's fighting chance but also prohibit her from even carrying mace or pepper spray in her purse. How dare this legislature take away a woman's right to defend herself against violent attack!

Finally, SB 698 will force law-abiding Oregonians to leave self-defense tools in their cars, resulting in a potential increase of thefts (which thanks to the so-called "safe storage" law now punishes & imprisons theft VICTIMS instead of perpetrators!).

Every year this legislature passes more laws to hamstring the police & reduce penalties for criminals while simultaneously criminalizing victims & law abiding citizens. The irresponsibility of this legislature is truly astounding. Do you WANT us to be less safe?

If you are a democrat, SHAME ON YOU for prioritizing criminals over innocent victims. And if you're a Republican **grow a spine**, walk out on this sham leftislature & DENY QUORUM to these tyrants before we completely lose our beautiful state! SB 698 is an absolute TRAVESTY to the Constitution, Rule of Law & the safety of law-abiding Oregonians. Please end this madness & STOP SB 698!

Sincerely,
Lesley Roehr