

Submitter: Josh Kulla
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB698

Once again, the Oregon legislature is considering a bill that will solve no problems, only create new problems, is virtually unenforceable, and is intended only to inconvenience law abiding citizens all the while purporting to boost public safety. This bill will do absolutely nothing to increase public safety, and will only serve as yet another starting point for avoidable litigation that will ultimately end up in the reversal of this bill. Further, I'm guessing that not a single legislator in favor of this bill can name even so much as a single case in which an Oregon resident lawfully carrying a concealed firearm caused even the slightest problem inside or adjacent to a public building.

Numerous academic studies on this topic have shown repeatedly that holders of concealed handgun licenses across the United States are convicted of crimes at a rate that is lower than that of sworn police officers. So, further restricting the constitutional rights of CHL holders is an obvious ploy intended only to score points with the out-of-state financial backers of Measure 114 and other illegal attempts to reduce the ability of Oregonians to protect themselves against criminal violence. I urge legislators considering voting in favor of this bill to reconsider and reject this proposed legislation and instead focus on actions that would increase enforcement of existing laws, of which we have no shortage. Thank you.