

Submitter:	Barak Mosgrove
On Behalf Of:	All Oregon CHL Holders
Committee:	Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB698

I strongly oppose this bill because it will do nothing to make our public spaces safer, and will only limit the ability of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and others.

I applied for a CHL to protect myself, my family, and anyone else in need should I be there when a situation arose. CHL holders are overwhelmingly kind-hearted, compassionate, protective people who only carry to be a first line of defense for their fellow humans if someone wished to do them harm.

If someone is set on committing a violent crime, a responsible armed person is the victim's best chance if the cops are not already present. The old adage sticks, "when seconds count, the police are only minutes away". I hold great respect for our first responders and law enforcement officers, but the reality is they cannot be everywhere at once.

Most people that go through the trouble of getting a CHL do more than just fill out the paper and attend the class. Many take other classes involving live fire that are specifically tailored to defensive situations. They are responsible, law-abiding people who want to do what is right. They don't go about their lives day to day wanting to be a hero, or looking to pick a fight. They are taught to de-escalate, diffuse, and leave if possible. Use of force is always the last resort.

Preventing the lawful carry of firearms in public places by responsible people effectively puts a target on these places to anyone that wants to commit heinous acts of violence with little chance of harm to themselves.

There is undeniably a behavioral epidemic in this state and country that needs to be solved, but these people are not the cause. They are the solution!

I strongly urge you to oppose this bill and reconsider your approach to solving this problem. I truly appreciate your desire to fix these deep problems in our society, but this is the wrong way to do it. Please reconsider your stance on this bill, and do not let it pass.

Thank you.