

Submitter: ANDREW HALL

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB698

Honorable Members,

I'm Andrew Hall, an Oregonian opposing SB 698, which lets public entities limit CHL holders' firearm defense in public buildings. This bill violates rights and safety unless the state funds armed security.

CHL holders—over 300,000—pass strict checks (ORS 166.291). The Second Amendment and Oregon Constitution protect their self-defense. SB 698 weakens their ORS 166.370 defense, making possession a misdemeanor. Courts allow restrictions—like in Hirsch/Friend (2005)—only with armed security. Without it, this is unlawful.

CHL holders are safe—less than 0.2% misuse permits (Crime Prevention Research Center, 2019). They deter violence, like in Arlington, TX (2017). Disarming them in hospitals or city halls, without guards, risks repeats of Umpqua (2015). Safety needs protection, not bans.

Restrictions require state-funded security. Courthouses prove this—taxpayers fund guards. SB 698 doesn't, breaching duty and ORS 166.170's uniformity. Oregon's \$100B budget can afford it—reallocate or use CHL volunteers.

Reject SB 698 or mandate security. Fund mental health or training instead. Rights and lives matter.

Respectfully,

Andrew Hall