

Submitter: Keith LaHaie
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB698

Dear Senate Committee On Judiciary,
Please reject this damaging and clearly unconstitutional bill and make sure that it doesn't make it out of Committee.

Unsurprisingly, our soft-on-crime Legislature, who can't seem to solve any real crime problems, is again intent on making criminals out of law abiding Oregon gun owners – but this time, you're focused on the most law abiding citizens of all – concealed handgun license (CHL) holders! Where is the evidence that CHL holders are committing any type of gun crime?

SB 698 is a direct attack on Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders – law-abiding gun owners who have undergone an extensive background check, fingerprinting, and who have received training in the safe use of firearms. CHL holders are responsible citizens who have gone to lengths to ensure the free exercise of their Second Amendment rights - this bill will turn them into criminals. SB 698, like its several predecessors - will in allow nearly any public agency to unilaterally create "Gun-Free Zones," which are proven to be kill zones. Does the Legislature really think that anyone intent on committing mayhem in a public building will heed the restrictions that will be spawned by this bill? The language in this bill is confusing, and there is a high probability that it will conflict with existing laws and regulations. Allowing local jurisdictions to create their own restrictions on CHL holders will likely result in numerous cases of non-compliance, both involuntary and voluntary. A CHL holder would have no way of knowing the regulations that were established at a particular jurisdiction. This is the primary reason for state pre-emption.

My wife and I are both CHL holders. We're responsible gun owners, and my wife is a 34-year law enforcement veteran – highly trained in the use of firearms. As with all CHL holders, we carry our firearms lawfully for our own protection, as well as the protection of others. We do not appreciate state attempts at limiting our right to self-defense. This bill will effectively disarm us, leaving us vulnerable to criminals. We do not intend to become victims. There are already federal laws prohibiting firearms in certain sensitive facilities such as courthouses, and so far, those laws have made sense.

Unfortunately, as with many of the bills being proposed in the current session, SB 698 is yet another example of state overreach. It is a "solution" in search of a problem. With the patchwork of regulations it will engender, it clearly has the potential to make criminals out of law-abiding gun owners. To our knowledge, there

is no precedent for an Oregon CHL holder committing any type of firearm-related crime while in a public facility, so there seems to be no logical reason or need for this legislation.

Keith LaHaie
Central Point