

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB698

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 698, which authorizes the governing bodies of certain public entities to adopt policies that limit the affirmative defense for concealed handgun licensees regarding the possession of firearms in public buildings. While I understand the importance of public safety, I believe this legislation undermines the rights of responsible gun owners and could create unnecessary confusion and legal challenges.

First and foremost, this bill could severely restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens who have obtained concealed carry licenses. These individuals have undergone background checks, training, and have demonstrated their commitment to responsible gun ownership. By limiting their affirmative defense in public buildings, we are essentially penalizing those who are following the law and acting within their rights.

Moreover, allowing public entities to adopt varying policies could lead to a patchwork of regulations that would create confusion for concealed carry licensees. This inconsistency would make it challenging for responsible gun owners to navigate the law, potentially leading to inadvertent violations and unnecessary legal consequences. Clear and consistent laws are essential for ensuring that citizens can exercise their rights without fear of unintentionally breaking the law.

Additionally, there is no evidence to suggest that restricting firearms in public buildings significantly enhances safety. In fact, many studies indicate that responsible, trained individuals carrying firearms can serve as a deterrent to crime and can enhance the safety of public spaces. Instead of limiting the rights of concealed carry licensees, we should focus on promoting responsible gun ownership and ensuring that individuals are educated on firearm safety.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose SB 698. This legislation does not effectively enhance public safety and infringes on the rights of responsible gun owners. Let us work toward solutions that respect the rights of citizens while promoting safety in our communities.

Thank you for considering my views on this important issue.