

Submitter: Richard Wisner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB698

04 April 2025

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate Bill 698

Dear Chair Senator Prozanski, Vice-Chair Senator Thatcher and members of the Committee:

As usual, proponents say this bill will increase public safety. How, exactly? They can't say. They also can't say when was the last time a Concealed Handgun License holder committed a crime with their hand gun. There's a reason for that. CHL holders are law-abiding citizens that have been vetted and found competent to carry a firearm.

Unfortunately, no amount of logic, no amount of evidence, no amount of sound reasoning will deter supporters of this legislation from continuing to think more gun free areas will deter criminals from carrying a gun in one. For some reason they think only law-abiding, vetted persons should be prohibited from having the means to defend themselves in certain areas. Not good logic at all.

This bill is patently about making it more difficult for law-abiding citizens to protect themselves, their loved ones and innocent people nearby.

Making guns more difficult to carry by law-abiding citizens because criminals use them is telling us that our rights and liberties depend not our own conduct, but on the conduct of the guilty and the lawless. But that doesn't seem to matter to sponsors and supporters of this bill.

Criminals prefer unarmed victims.

It's obvious that when bills such as this speak about gun control the word that really matters is 'control'. That is what bills such as SB 698 are about. The U.S. Constitution specifically denies government the power to infringe upon the natural right to bear arms. SB 698 is an infringement.

SB 698 talks about "the crime of possessing a firearm in a public building." But it doesn't talk about the crime of governments making yet more soft targets available for criminals to attack.

I cannot urge the Committee strongly enough that SB 698 is bad legislation. And it is more important to stop bad legislation than it is to pass good legislation.

Thank you,
Richard Wisner