

Submitter: Joshua Hull  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB698

Below is an emotional testimony opposing Oregon's SB 698, written from the perspective of a concerned citizen. Since SB 698 in the 2025 session authorizes governing bodies of certain public entities to limit the affirmative defense for concealed handgun licensees carrying firearms in public buildings (based on available context), this testimony reflects that focus. It is crafted to be heartfelt and personal, while aligning with the information provided.

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My name is Joshua Hull, and I'm standing here today with a heavy heart, pleading with you to reconsider Senate Bill 698. This isn't just a piece of legislation to me—it's a direct threat to the safety, freedom, and peace of mind I've fought so hard to hold onto in my life.

I'm a father of three beautiful children. Every day, I walk them to school, praying they'll come home safe. I've lived through moments no parent should—nights where I've clutched my phone, waiting for news, because danger doesn't announce itself. Three years ago, I got a concealed handgun license. Not because I wanted to, but because I had to. A drug addict followed me home from the grocery store one evening, and I'll never forget the terror of realizing I was alone, defenseless, with my kids asleep upstairs. That license, and the choice it gives me to protect myself, became my lifeline. It's not about power—it's about survival.

SB 698 wants to take that away from me. It says that the people who run our public buildings—libraries, community centers, places I go every week—can decide I don't get to defend myself there. They can strip away my right to feel safe, even though I've followed every rule, passed every background check, and trained to be responsible. How is that fair? How is that just? I'm not a criminal—I'm a mom who's terrified of being helpless again.

I think about walking into our local library, a place my kids love, and knowing that if something happens—if someone walks in with hate in their heart—I'd have no way to protect them. This bill doesn't make me feel safer; it makes me feel exposed, vulnerable, like a sitting duck. I've seen the news—schools, theaters, public spaces turned into nightmares. And now, you're asking me to trust that nothing will happen, that someone else will save us. But what if they don't get there in time?

This isn't about guns for me—it's about my family. It's about the knot in my stomach

every time I step out the door, wondering if today's the day I'll need to be more than just a Dad. SB 698 feels like a betrayal. It tells me my safety doesn't matter, that my choices don't count. I'm begging you—don't pass this bill. Don't take away the one thing that gives me a fighting chance to bring my kids home at night. Please, listen to me. I'm not just a voice—I'm a person, scared and desperate for you to understand what this means to me.

Thank you.