

Submitter:

Matthew Leong

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB698

#### 1. CHL Holders Are Not the Problem

CHL holders are among the most law-abiding citizens in Oregon. They pass background checks, complete safety training, and take their responsibilities seriously. There is no data suggesting that licensed CHL holders pose a public safety risk in public buildings. SB 698 does not address criminal misuse of firearms—it targets the people already following the law.

#### 2. It Creates a Legal Minefield

This bill would create a confusing patchwork of local policies. A CHL holder could lawfully carry in one building but be criminally charged for carrying in another across town without any clear notice or intent to break the law. Even with signage requirements, it is unreasonable to expect every citizen to track constantly changing policies across hundreds of jurisdictions.

#### 3. It Endangers, Rather Than Protects, the Public

SB 698 disarms responsible citizens while doing nothing to deter criminals. Mass shooters do not care about signage or policy—they deliberately target “gun-free zones” because they know resistance will be delayed. Taking away the ability of trained individuals to defend themselves or others in emergencies puts everyone at greater risk.

#### 4. It Undermines Uniform Rights

Allowing local entities to decide where rights can be exercised undermines statewide consistency and sets a dangerous precedent. Second Amendment protections should not depend on zip code. Rights do not stop at the door of a city hall or school district office.

#### 5. It Creates Unintended Victims

People who carry for personal protection—especially women, rural Oregonians, and those who have been victims of violence—could unknowingly become criminals for entering a public building they had every reason to believe was accessible. This is not justice—it’s entrapment by complexity.

In summary, SB 698 punishes law-abiding citizens, confuses the legal landscape, and makes our communities less safe. I respectfully ask you to protect the rights of responsible Oregonians and vote NO on this bill.