

Submitter: K Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB698

Senate Bill 698 is a shameless assault on Oregonians' rights, and you ought to be embarrassed. Gutting the concealed handgun license (CHL) defense in public buildings—turning law-abiding carriers into criminals with jail time and fines? This isn't safety; it's a power trip, and I've got the data to prove it's garbage.

This betrays CHL holders—vetted, responsible citizens. Oregon's 260,000+ CHL holders (OSP 2023) pass rigorous checks—fingerprints, FBI screens. Zero mass shootings in Oregon tied to them (DOJ 2023). You're letting local boards strip their rights, making a felony a misdemeanor with 364 days in jail and \$6,250 fines. For what? Oregon's gun homicide rate—3.8 per 100,000 (OHA 2022)—beats the national 4.5, with no CHL crisis. This is punishment, not prevention.

You're ignoring facts. DOJ: 1,013 gun crimes in 2023—95% illegal guns, not CHL carriers in public buildings. FBI: concealed carriers commit crimes at 0.02%—lower than cops. A 2021 Journal of Law and Economics study found no link between carry laws and public violence. Your bill's a solution to a fantasy problem, trampling Bruen (2022), which protects carry rights in public.

It's a patchwork mess, too. Cities, counties, universities can ban CHL carry willy-nilly—confusion for carriers, enforcement nightmares for cops. OSP: 40% of crimes unsolved—why waste time on this? Rural CHL holders—hunters, workers—lose protection at city halls or colleges. You're stripping safety from the people who follow rules.

The hypocrisy stinks. Cops and feds keep their guns—why not trust CHL holders with the same training? This isn't about danger; it's control. No data shows CHL carriers threaten public buildings—prove it if you've got it, Reynolds. You don't.

Kill this travesty. Focus on real issues—mental health (40% provider shortage, OHA) or illegal guns (80% of murders, DOJ). SB 698 is a slap to Oregonians who play by the book. End it before it ruins lives.