

Michael C. Smith

Date: 6 April 2026
To: Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Michael C. Smith
Re: Opposition to SB 698

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Michael Smith. For purposes of identification, I am a gun owning Democrat. While I serve many roles in the Democratic Parties of Oregon and Multnomah County, I'm providing this testimony today in a personal capacity.

I have examined SB 698 and I am opposed to this bill.

I remind the Committee that one of the main reasons for firearms ownership is self-defense. This bill purports to allow special places to be more secure, but its effects go far beyond that. As I read this bill, it could, for example, allow the City of Portland to ban the legal carrying of concealed firearms in public parks as long as they have so much as a bathroom in place. Allowing these restrictions will not improve public safety, and will jeopardize everyday Oregonians as they travel across the state.

I ask the Committee to set aside this bill and focus on gun policies that are better founded.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Smith