

Submitter: Daniel Dyre-Greensite
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB698

Chair Prozanski, vice-chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

As a Democrat who - like many of our fellow Oregonians - owns firearms, I have serious concerns with this bill. And like most of us, I have a strong desire to see real gun violence reduction in our state. However, bills such as SB 698 are not the way forward.

I am alarmed at the addition of an ability for local governments to bar CHL holders from not only public buildings but even "adjacent grounds" of those buildings and those of existing prohibited areas. This could cause a person who simply walks by their own city hall with no intention of entering to be charged with a crime; the same would hold true for someone who picks up a friend outside PDX airport. We cannot require citizens who wish to enter our public spaces to abandon their Second Amendment rights. Our CHL holders have repeatedly proven to be law-abiding (committing crimes at a substantially lower rate than the general population) and there is no reason to believe that imposing these restrictions would have any positive impact on our safety (in fact, many would argue that the effect could be quite the opposite).

I would therefore respectfully ask that you leave SB 698 in committee and instead focus on policy that will address the concerns we all share around suicide prevention and community violence reduction.