

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB698

I strongly oppose this bill limiting where CHL holders can legally carry. It would create a patchwork of regulations that would be nearly impossible to comply with. In 1989 HB 3470 was introduced by then house speaker Vera Katz to expand concealed carry and create uniform legal zones statewide eliminating a patchwork of regulations that existed before then. In exchange, it increased purchase waiting periods until a more thorough background check system was put in place. It was a compromise that was made with input from pro and anti gun stakeholders that recognized that concealed carry holders were not the demographic that were committing murders and crime. Statistical analysis since then has shown that it did not increase the homicide rate. This is not surprising since Concealed carry holders are statistically some of the most law abiding citizens with an arrest rate that is lower than even police officers. People that commit murders and other violent crimes are generally well known to law enforcement and have previous convictions for a variety serious crimes. These criminals would not be eligible for a CHL and do not follow existing laws by definition.

The current system is working well. Concealed carry holders are still not committing crimes and the number of murders by them is so low it is nearly zero. This bill is trying to fix a problem that does not exist. It will do nothing to prevent crime. Concealed carry holders are not the problem!!