

**DISTRICT 18**

SW Portland  
Tigard  
King City



**SENATOR GINNY BURDICK  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

**CHAIR:**

Finance & Revenue

**MEMBER:**

Rules  
Business, Transportation  
& Economic Development

EXHIBIT: 4 SB 1550  
2012 SESSION SEN. JUDICIARY  
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Testimony for the Senate Judiciary regarding SB 1550

02/08/12

Good Morning Mr. Chair, members of the committee. For the record I am Senator Ginny Burdick. I represent Senate District 18, which includes SW Portland, Tigard and King City.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to testify before this Committee regarding SB 1550. I am a strong believer that our schools and children would be safer if we kept all guns off of campuses and out of our classrooms. The parents, teachers and students at our public schools and universities overwhelmingly agree that guns and schools do not mix. You will hear from some of these people today.

Numerous Oregon public school districts, colleges and university campuses have policies that forbid CHL holders from bringing guns onto school grounds. Unfortunately, the court has recently ruled that under current law, public schools are not legally able to create gun free campuses.

Private schools, on the other hand, are legally able to exclude all guns from school grounds. Shouldn't students attending a public school, such as Portland State University, be afforded the same safety rights as students attending private schools?

**Why is it important to prohibit all guns on school grounds?**

There are numerous reasons why it is important to prohibit all non law enforcement officials from bringing guns onto school grounds. Police officers are required to undergo hundreds of hours of training. CHL holders, on the other hand, are not required to undergo any law enforcement training. Instead, they can use a basic NRA or Hunter safety course to demonstrate firearm competency.

An NRA or Hunter safety course is nowhere near as comprehensive as the hundreds of hours of firearm training that law enforcement officials complete. In addition to rigorous firearm training, most law enforcement officers receive instruction in de-escalation techniques. For example, as of 2007, all operating personnel in the Portland Police Bureau must go through mandatory Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). This training deals specifically with how to de-escalate situations involving the mentally ill or developmentally disabled.



CHL holders are not required to go through de-escalation training. The impulse to shoot first and ask questions later in an emergency situation can be a powerful impulse, and de-escalation training is essential to combat this tendency. If a dangerous situation arises in a classroom full of children, don't we want people that are trained to de-escalate the situation?

Some argue that CHL holders would be able to assist if a school shooting takes place. But the evidence indicates, to the contrary, that CHL holders are likely to do more harm than good in such high stress situations.

I urge your support of SB 1550.

Sincerely,

Senator Ginny Burdick



**Date:** February 8, 2012  
**To:** Senate Judiciary Committee, Chair Prozanski and Members  
**From:** Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations Consultant  
**RE:** *SB 1550 [Banning weapons in Schools]*

On behalf of OEA's 45,000 members, it is my honor to speak in favor of SB 1550, which would give educators and law enforcement personnel another tool to help keep schools safer.

We believe that SB 1550 addresses a school district's need to keep staff and students safe from violence in schools. We know that, overall, school is the safest place for children from a statistical point of view, but occasionally violence does erupt on school premises. Too many of our young people have been harmed as a result. We know that schools and colleges are not appropriate places for carrying, discharging, or otherwise making use of any kind of weapon.

Just as airports, courthouses, and other public spaces are becoming safe havens, we think schools and campuses should be as well. Our thanks go to policymakers who back this bill to keep our students and education staff safer by making possession or discharge of a weapon in school or on school grounds a class C felony.

Two provisions in this bill make this a particularly well-thought-out legislative concept: first, that no person otherwise allowed to possess a firearm will be inconvenienced by this safety measure, because s/he would still be allowed to have an unloaded weapon locked in his/her vehicle on school property. Second, because discovered weapons would be subject to confiscation, crimes and tragedies will be preventable because pre-emptive action will be allowed.

For all these reasons, OEA supports this bill and thanks this committee in advance if it sends the bill to the Senate floor with a do-pass recommendation.

Authored by: Senator Ben Rudin, Senator Jeremy Hedlund, Senator Alexandra Flores-Quilty, Senator Tom Schally

Sponsored by: Megan Hirsh (Co-Director, Colleges Against Cancer), Ky Kubitz (ASUO Gender & Sexuality Advocate), Senator Andrew Lubash, Senator Lindy Mabuya, Senate President Lamar Wise

**Title: Opposition to Conceal & Carry on Campus**

A BILL FOR RESOLUTION

**Section I.**

1.1 *Whereas*, Rules of the Student Senate § 10.2(b) authorizes the Student Senate to “adopt resolutions...when it is in the direct interest of the overwhelming majority of the incidental fee paying students;” and

1.2 *Whereas*, the Oregon Court of Appeals struck down an OSBHE rule that prohibited carrying guns on OUS property; and

1.3 *Whereas*, the University of Oregon campus is OUS property; and

1.4 *Whereas*, the ruling was based on a legal technicality and not a constitutional guarantee; and

1.5 *Whereas*, the Supreme Court of the United States has made clear that the Amendment II protection of the right to keep and bear arms does not restrict “laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools...”<sup>1</sup>; and

1.6 *Whereas*, unlike cars, knives, and pencils, the primary purpose of guns is lethal; and

1.7 *Whereas*, a greater percentage of college students than society at large engage in binge drinking and drug abuse<sup>2</sup>; and

1.8 *Whereas*, among college gun owners, the percentage is even greater<sup>3</sup>; and

1.9 *Whereas*, 55% of college students contemplate suicide<sup>4</sup>; and

1.10 *Whereas*, suicide is often impulsive and triggered by feelings that may quickly pass<sup>5</sup>; and

1.11 *Whereas*, 90% of people who fail at a suicide attempt do not later die by suicide<sup>6</sup>; and