

February 8, 2012

Judiciary Committee
Oregon State Senate

Re: SB ~~1754~~ 1574

Dear Chair Prozanski and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Concealed Carry Reciprocity.

All States require the minimal background checks that are required by Oregon for their Concealed Carry License.

Although safety classes differ in various states, most require some type of introduction to gun safety, as does Oregon.

To require the State Police to adopt rules in verifying other states requirements and reciprocal licenses, will put an undue budget expense on an already weary State Budget.

This is not necessary because anyone under another State's Permit, MUST abide by the state rules in which they physically are at that particular time.

Example, an Oregon permit holder must abide by California State laws while in California, and another state's Permit holder, must abide by Oregon Laws while in Oregon.

Therefore, the concern of what other states require, is irrelevant, since what happens in Oregon, stays in Oregon (under Oregon Law).

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Smith
Salem, Oregon

February 8, 2012

Judiciary Committee
Oregon State Senate

Re: SB 1550

Dear Chair Prozanski and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Concealed Carry on Public School Grounds.

Restricting Concealed Carry will not prevent violent illegal gun use anywhere. The two are polar opposites. Concealed Carry Permit holders are law abiding legal citizens, that have been screened, and licensed in County of Residence, in the State of Oregon, according to the State Law.

If current laws were enforced, no further laws are unnecessary.

Current Laws already apply to use of firearms:

166.180: Negligently wounding another..wounds any other person with bullet or shot from any firearm....shall be punished by imprisonment...fine... In addition, ..so convicted shall forfeit any license....

166.190: Pointing firearm at another....with or without malice...any loaded or empty ...firearm, at or toward any other person within range of firearm, except in self-defense, shall be fined...or imprisoned...

166.210: Unlawful use of weapon. (1) A person commits a crime of unlawful use of a weapon if the person:

- (a) Attempts to use unlawfully against another, or carries or possesses with intent to use unlawfully against another, any dangerous or deadly weapon as defined in ORS 161.015;
- (3) Unlawful use of a weapon is a Class C felony. (Amended by 1975 c.700, 1985 c543; 1991 c 797, 2009 c556)

I wish to respond to previous testimony regarding this provision, which was presented last year. Many of the statements were unsubstantiated rhetorical assumptions based on emotions, not facts.

- (1) Due to past shootings in school, "Armed visitors, teachers, and students are likely to increase, rather than diminish, the death toll in the event of a shooting on a school campus." (not proven to be true),
- (2) "A civilian shooter, whether student or adult, is likely to have minimal training. Reacting under the extreme stress of a school shooting, the civilian shooter poses a grave threat to students and staff, who can be caught in crossfire." This does not differentiate concealed carry from general public.
- (3) "Concealed carry licensees have committed homicides, violent felonies, and other horrific crimes" Which cited "Brandy Center to Prevent Gun Violence, No Gun Left Behind: The Gun Lobby's Campaign to Push Guns into Colleges and Schools 22.23" I reviewed this source, of the 31 cases found in news paper articles, not court records, 25 were NOT Concealed Carry Licensee's. All of these newspaper sources state "charge", this is not a conviction, one

was an accidental shooting in a group of teenage friends (non-licensed, non-criminal).

- (4) While each group, has bad apples, whether law enforcement officers, elected officials, clergy members, or doctors. Every segment of society has its bad apples, but statistically speaking, concealed carry has fewer than most. * A comparison of statistics ** in the mid-nineties, found that Florida concealed handgun license holders were three times less likely to be arrested than were New York City police officers.
- (5) "Perhaps the most significant risk to college students from guns is suicide" Studies* show that 90% of suicides are committed in the home. Because most college students over the age of twenty-one (the minimum age to obtain a concealed handgun license in most states) live off campus, allowing concealed carry on college campuses would have very little impact on the ability of college students to possess firearms in their homes and, therefore, little to no impact on the overall number of suicides by college students. "Youth and Adolescent Suicide: A Guide for Educators," Oregon Resiliency Project, University of Oregon, 2003; *After Suicide: A Ray of Hope for Those Left Behind*, Eleanora Betsy Ross, 2001
- (6) "College students engage in more risky behavior than others. ...students with guns..." This study does not designate concealed carry licensee from general 4.3% of student gun ownership.
 - (1) Since the age limit to obtain a concealed handgun license in most states is 21, it seems only fair to note that a three-year study by The Task Force on College Drinking, commissioned by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), found that ages 18 through 21 is the period of heaviest alcohol consumption for most drinkers in the United States, that college students under the age of 21 are more likely than older students to binge drink and have alcohol related problems. (From **Journal of Studies on Alcohol: The following materials are available from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA):** <http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/SupportingResearch/journalStudiesAlcohol.aspx>
- (7) "In an elementary or secondary school setting, teachers and staff cannot reliably keep a gun accessible for self -defense without the possibility that a child will also gain access to the weapon." This is a reflection of teachers and staff, NOT an issue of concealed carry license holders. This reasoning is unfounded. There are multiple ways to carry a firearm without others realizing, or having access to said firearm. There are a multitude of companies whose primary business is to provide such carry possibilities.
- (8) "Law enforcement responding to a shooting on campus may not know which person is the aggressor. Also, with everyone armed, security will be less able to issue "lock-down" advisories to disarm a campus threat before the shooting starts." No one is suggesting that all students be armed, this is hyperbole. Real-world shootouts are typically localized and over very quickly. It's not realistic to expect police to encounter an ongoing shootout between assailants and armed civilians. Second, police are trained to expect both armed bad guys AND armed good guys—from off-duty/undercover police officers to armed civilians—in tactical scenarios. Third, concealed handgun license holders are trained to use their firearms for self-defense. They are

not trained to run through buildings looking for bad guys. Therefore, the biggest distinction between the armed assailants and the armed civilians is that the armed civilians would be hiding with the crowd, and the armed assailants would be shooting at the crowd.

Allowing Concealed Carry on school property, would simply allow the same trained, licensed adults, who carry concealed handguns, without incident, when not on school property, to do so on school property.

There is no reason to assume that the same individuals who aren't shooting people, off school property, would suddenly do so, on school property.

Despite all of fear mongering, this is not a debate about keeping guns of school property, rather to renege on current law.

Respectfully submitted

Eileen Smith,
Salem, OR

* "Crime, Deterrence, and Right-to-Carry Concealed Handguns," John Lott and David Mustard, *Journal of Legal Studies* (v.26, no.1, pgs 1-68, January 1997); "An analysis of the Arrest Rate of Texas Concealed Handgun License Holders as Compared to the Arrest Rate of the Entire Texas Population," William E. Sturdevand, September 1, 2000; Florida Department of Justice statistics, 1998; Florida Department of State, "Concealed Weapons/Firearms License Statistical Report," 1998; Texas Department of Correction data, 1996-20000, compiled by the Texas State Rifle Association.

** A comparison of statistics on arrests of police officers, published by the Washington Post on 8/28/94, to Florida Department of Law Enforcement statistics submitted to the Governor on 3/15/95.

Thank you to Students for Concealed Carry on Campus for sources.