

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Judiciary  
[annola.dejong@state.or.us](mailto:annola.dejong@state.or.us)

April 5, 2013

From: Marc Heatherington, Salem, Oregon  
[heatherington@comcast.net](mailto:heatherington@comcast.net)

## Written Testimony for SB 796

I am writing in opposition to SB 796. This bill requires CHL holders pass a firing range test. The reasoning is that CHL holders should be tested just like a car driver's license test.

### **Lack of justification for the bill**

There is no evidence that this bill is needed. Where are the Oregon victims of untested CHL holders? We've seen careless CHL holders, such as the man who lost his firearm in a theater, but range tests don't test for carelessness, or for stupid. That man lost his CHL as he should have. There is no evidence these tests are needed. Furthermore, they won't solve any existing firearm problems.

### **Range Test - Reloading**

The original bill language requires applicant to fire 20 bullets in 45 seconds. To accomplish this, without a Glock 30 round magazine, requires reloading. Why would the authors require a speed test on reloading? How many CHL holders carry a reload? Probably less than 2%. Driver license tests don't require a speed test on a raceway.

Many CHL holders carry revolvers. One popular firearm, the Ruger LCR, holds five rounds. Reloading this revolver 3 times in 45 seconds, while shooting 20 rounds would be impossible. How many revolver carriers carry a reload? Almost none. Is the public at risk if they can't reload fast enough? No. If they can't reload fast enough, the CHL carrier is the only one in danger. The proposed amendments improves the bill language, but other problems remain.

### **Range Test - Lack of Facilities**

Most, current CHL classes are classroom oriented and do not include live fire. How many private ranges open their ranges to **non**-members to take CHL training classes? Not many. CHL applicants could be forced to wait six to eight months to get into such training. Is it your intent to require a shooting range membership to obtain a CHL? The largest range in the Portland area, Tri-County Gun Club is maxed out and not taking new members. The largest range in Salem, Four Corners, is also maxed out and not taking new members. Bills to allow more shooting ranges are bottled up. One of them, SB 713, is buried in this committee.

How many ranges are set up to allow testing at 3, 7 and 15 yards? Answer: not many. Most ranges have hard target setups connected to bullet traps. Their rules don't allow for alternate, free placement of targets, since that would defeat environmental and safety concerns. Without 3, 7 and 15 yard range setups, where will the training occur? Where will the tests be given? The bill essentially eliminates most new CHLs in Oregon.