

I ask that my testimony becomes part of the public record.

My name is Chuck Choate I live in Keizer.

I am Representative Thatcher's Constituent! I sincerely appreciate Representative Thatcher's efforts on behalf of Oregon citizens.

I heartily support the common sense amendments to the statutes proposed by hb 3009.

There are 175,000 responsible Oregon citizens licensed to carry a concealed hand gun. Of the 175,000 CHL holders very few incidents pertaining to firearms have been reported as being caused by a CHL holder. On the contrary local and national media frequently reports incidents where a person has defended themselves or another by being armed with their legally licensed concealed handgun. **Most of the time no shot was fired.**

My back yard connects to Whitaker Middle school's soccer field. The track is used daily early mornings and late evenings by joggers and folks walking their dogs.

I would guess the same is true for almost every school and college campus in Oregon.

Assaults and robberies on college campuses and shopping center parking lots have been reported in Portland, Salem, Eugene & Corvallis as well as other areas such as parks more and more frequently

Of the 175,000 legally armed citizens I wonder what the percentage would be that are parents coming on school grounds to pick up their children or attend functions at their children's school. I wonder how many of those legally armed parents have posed a problem with their concealed hand guns.

We have seen the ridiculous and outrageous ways teachers and administrators have reacted to children drawing pictures of guns or simulating guns in school. I think it's unrealistic to expect school districts to allow legally licensed citizens to carry their defensive firearms onto school grounds!

We are living in dangerous times. Nearly every day the news media reports on assaults, armed robberies car jacking, kidnappings not only on campuses but in the communities as well. This is not the good old days. Armed criminals, gang members, sexual predators, road rage idiots and others intent on harming vulnerable victims are out there. This is not being paranoid. These things are actually happening in our communities!!

Twenty years ago I retired from the Oregon Department of Corrections after serving 28 years as a Correctional Officer, State Parole and Probation Manager, and finally as Superintendent of a Minimum Security Correctional Facility.

I have seen the changes in our communities. I have seen the predatory creatures released back into the community because of prison over crowding and the increased danger posed to our citizens especially to the most vulnerable. Now current economic circumstances may force even more dangerous criminals to be released from the state's prisons.

I expect a lot of retirees spend a good amount of time in public buildings especially when the Legislature is in session. I wonder what percent of the 175,000 licensed CHL holders are retired citizens and frequent the public buildings in their communities especially those in Salem, Portland or Eugene.

How will they defend themselves during the long hours of darkness in late fall and winter months when walking to or from a public building if their legally licensed firearm is locked safely in their car.

I wonder what percentage of the 175,000 licensed CHL holders have had their cars stolen. If they had left their legally licensed

firearm secured in their car then the car would be in the possession of an armed car thief. Hopefully no unsuspecting Police Officer pulls the car over for a minor traffic violation before the car is reported as stolen.

I urge you to approve measure 3009 to ensure legally Licensed CHL holders can keep their legally licensed concealed hand gun in it's holster where it belongs when they are in a school or public building.

It's better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it.

Thank You

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