

My name is Chuck Choate I live at 6080 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE in Keizer  
I request that my testimony becomes part of the public record.  
I am opposed to Senate Bills 347 and 699.

I am one of approximately 165,000 responsible Oregon citizens licensed to carry concealed weapons and have been for over thirty years. I believe that of the approximate 165,000 concealed carry licensees very few if any have been involved in crimes relating to the carrying of firearms.  
I can tell you that we live in a dangerous time. Nearly every day the news media reports assaults, shootings and robberies not only in Portland or the Salem - Keizer area but also in the smaller communities.

As a disabled elderly citizen I believe it's essential to have the means to protect myself and my family which means I do not go unarmed. Hopefully I will never have to use my firearm but if the need arises as I am walking to or from the Capitol Building my only means of defense will do me no good if it's locked in my car. If my car is stolen with my gun in my car we will have an armed car thief! The best and safest place for my firearm is in it's holster!

The second amendment to the constitution states that my right to be armed shall not be infringed upon. The Oregon law says that I have a right to carry a concealed handgun and also states that I am exempt from ordinances and other restrictions regarding the carrying and possessing a loaded firearm in public places and buildings

I firmly believe that legally armed responsible citizens do not pose a threat to you folks here in the Capitol building or in our public schools and college campuses !!

Thank You

*Chuck Choate*