

Testimony before Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee on April 5, 2013

SB 347 - in opposition

Senate Bill 347 does nothing to protect children. What it DOES is to criminalize otherwise legal behavior on the part of law-abiding Oregon citizens. Every day, young mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers take their children to and from school, interact with school staff, and participate and assist with school activities. Many of these people possess a concealed handgun for which they are thoroughly vetted and licensed by the state to carry. This bill would see to it that these people would be driven through our legal system, being charged with a Class C Felony for doing what they can otherwise do during their regular daily activities—carrying a concealed handgun for self-defense.

Current Oregon law, as it relates to concealed handgun licensing, has worked extraordinarily well. In 20 years, there has not been a single reported firearm incident—NOT ONE—on any school property involving a parent or guardian in possession of an Oregon CHL. Yet, that fact is for some reason lost in this debate.

I cannot understand why Oregon law must be changed when there is no problem with existing law, especially when it involves criminalizing otherwise law-abiding behavior on the part of its citizens.

Again, this law would do NOTHING to protect children. It actually makes schools less safe! Current law leaves a question in the mind of the criminal (who would never obey this law) of whether someone may be on campus that could offer substantial resistance to their evil intentions. If SB347 becomes law, not only will the criminal feel safer in a totally "gun-free zone", but it will make criminals of average, law-abiding citizens with an Oregon CHL, who carry on a campus.

Please vote NO on SB 347 and all amendments.

Thank you,

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