

Dear Chairman Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

I am writing for my opposition to the following bills: SB-347, SB-699, SB-700 and SB-796.

I will keep my comments brief:

SB-347: I do not understand the logic behind the introduction of Senate Bill 347.

- **This bill specifically singles out Concealed Carry license holders**, not criminals or juvenile delinquents intent on causing harm and chaos on school grounds.
- Conceal Carry license holders undergo extensive background checks before being allowed to carry. They study the law, and receive training and classroom instruction on proper handling, judgment calls, and situational awareness. Criminals and juvenile delinquents do not. Concealed Carry people **want** to be law-abiding, responsible citizens and work within society's rules.
- The recent case of a young woman fending off a rapist with her hand gun in Oregon City, and the young man at the Clackamas Town Square shooting are proof that a Concealed Carry license holder can have a positive effect on deterring crime without firing a single bullet (i.e. it's not the wild-west).
- To the best of my ability to research the subject, I have not found one instance in the state of Oregon of a Conceal Carry license holder causing trouble in a school.
- Conceal Carry license holders are dads, moms, grandparents, older brothers and sisters. They carry because they feel a need to be able to defend themselves and others.
- If in the event that something as horrible as Newton were to occur in Oregon, I can only hope that, thru luck and chance, a parent were there to stand between a shooter and the kids. Even if they had only a 30% chance of stopping a shooter, it is far more than the 0% chance the adults had in Newton. I don't want to hear a parent on the news with sirens and police cars in the background say "I didn't bring my firearm to school because I'm not allowed. I wish I could have done something more to save lives."
- I am concerned about the scenario were a parent make stop at the school to pickup a child, or need to visit the main office only. They have already passed extensive background checks. Is there an exemption for storage of the firearm in the car? I have yet to see a "gun-free zone" stop a bullet. But a Conceal Carry could stop the person pulling the trigger.

SB-699: Open-carry at the Capitol building. I've attended gun-control and pro-gun rallies as an observer, including the rally at the capitol were this bills inspiration probably originated.

- I did not observe any disturbances caused by the pro-gun supporters. As I stated above I do not believe that these individuals are the people we should be concerned about.
- The amendment allowing Concealed Carry is a good compromise.
- Suggested amendment: to allow open-carry, but unloaded.
- Suggested amendment: to allow open-carry, but only by Concealed Carry license holders.
- As with

SB-700: "Oregon expanded Background Check", Rushed laws always seem to make bad laws, even when they are "for the children". While the intention is appreciated; it does raise a few questions:

- One of the problems with the mass-shootings that have occurred is that the background check systems have not been complete (mental health records in these cases). I have not seen anything in the bill to address this scenario.
- In the event that there are no dealers available to perform the checks (none within distance, or dealers refusing to perform checks due to cost), what are the alternatives?
 - **Can private sellers perform the check via phone themselves without a dealer? Otherwise, what is the intent of the bill? Will there be something else, like an Internet website service?**
 - **Must the private seller also keep a record for 5 years after the transfer, in lieu of a dealer, in order to be immune from civil liability (section [(7)(a)] (8)(a), page 3)?**

- For those who fail background checks do to past criminal, or mental disqualifying criteria, is there a mechanism to follow-up?
- As most criminals already get their weapons via black-market or theft, I do not see how this will have an impact on crime as most private firearm sales are not advertised on popular ad sites like craigslist, or the newspapers.
- Oregon currently has strong background check requirements in place. ***Furthermore, it is already a federal felony for any private person to sell, trade, give, lend, rent or transfer a gun to a person they know or should have known is not legally allowed to own, purchase or possess a firearm.***
- It should be noted that every year, people fail to pass the background checks required for firearm purchases, yet only a small fraction are prosecuted for providing false information. This might be an area of focus to pursue.

SB-796:

- I am glad to see that the amendment has removed much of the arbitrary time limits. Not everyone needing a firearm for defense needs to be able to do backflips to defend themselves. Judgment is the highest skill needed.
- Has there been a cost analysis on how much of a burden this will place on a person applying for a Concealed Carry License? Will this create a scenario where someone who feels they need a license, but cannot afford it, instead chooses to carry without a permit?

Finally, I am concerned that the answer to the latest gun-control pushes have centered on citizens most likely to obey and follow the law. I hope this is not the future of “violent crime prevention” in this state. Please see below a table that I was able to find showing the homicide rates for police, concealed carry holders, and the general public.

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Homicides in Oregon since 2007

Year	Oregon Population ¹	Oregon CHL Holders ³	Law Enforcement Officers in Oregon ³	Homicides in Oregon				Total Homicides in Oregon ¹
				Manslaughter Victims by CHL Holders ²	Murders Victims by CHL Holders ²	Manslaughter Victims by Law Enforcement Officers ⁴	Murder Victims by Law Enforcement Officers ⁴	
2007	3,745,455	96,003	5,972		1			80
2008	3,791,075	105,202	5,890					99
2009	3,823,465	120,391	6,035					102
2010	3,831,073	130,454	6,130	1			3	114
2011	3,868,229	143,806	6,112	1			1	107
2012	3,899,353	157,874						98
AVG	3,826,442	125,622	6,028	0.333	0.167	0.000	0.667	100.000
TOT				2	1	0	4	600

¹Source: State of Oregon - Oregon Health Authority - Public Health Division - Oregon Vital Statistics Annual Report Vol. 2 (except OR Pop 2010-2012: US Census)

²Source: Violence Policy Center

³Source: FBI - Uniform Crime Reports (Table 77)

⁴Source: research by Dan Lucas

⁵Source: Oregon State Sheriffs' Association - CHL Subgroup

Homicide Rates in Oregon 2007-2012		
Police	CHL	All Oregonians
0.667	0.5	100
6,028	125,622	3,826,442
0.0111%	0.0004%	0.0026%

28 times more likely

6-yr Avg Homicide Rate	
All Oregonians	0.0026%
CHL Holders	0.0004%
Law Enforcement	0.0111%

7 times more likely