



Jake Weigler
Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety
May 14, 2015 Testimony on HB 3093 A-Engrossed

Chair Prozanski, Members of the Committee:

My name is Jake Weigler and I am here on behalf of the Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety. The Alliance works with over 50 organizations across Oregon committed to passing common-sense gun legislation that will slow the epidemic of gun violence in Oregon. I am here today to testify in opposition to House Bill 3093 A-Engrossed.

This morning you will receive written and verbal testimony from our partners regarding several concerns with the current version of the bill. With my time today I wanted to briefly summarize what we see as the key concerns.

- 1) Any discussion of reciprocity should begin with the expectation that we will not allow a CHL (concealed handgun license) holder from another state to carry a concealed weapon if that individual would not be able to obtain such a license if they were an Oregonian. In other words, we should not authorize visitors to carry a concealed weapon in public if that state does not have at least as stringent CHL requirements as we do.

The legislation (Section 1) would require only that the other state (a) grant reciprocity to Oregon CHL holders and (b) require its licensees to have undergone a firearms safety or training course. As is detailed in written testimony provided by Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, the A-Engrossed would allow for individuals to concealed carry in Oregon even if they were:

- Registered sex offenders from Nevada
- Domestic abusers with multiple arrests but no convictions from Nebraska
- 18-year-olds with outstanding arrest warrants from Maine
- Stalkers with misdemeanor convictions from South Carolina
- People with past violent behavior who present a danger to themselves or others from Kentucky

We are glad to see the -A7 amendments address this concern and support their adoption.

- 2) The Committee should recognize the responsibility this legislation will place upon local law enforcement to properly enforce reciprocity requirements. Whether in the current form, or the more stringent requirements outlined in the -A7 amendments, DOJ will be responsible for tracking legislation in 49 other states and whether their criteria meet Oregon's. It is noteworthy that multiple states do not currently recognize Oregon's CHL because of our lack of reciprocity – presumably a situation they would address with the passage of this legislation. And the responsibility for knowing this information ultimately ends up on the shoulders of that officer or deputy who is asked to determine if this individual with gun in a school or city building is allowed to carry because his CHL from Kentucky or Maine is valid here.
- 3) It is worth emphasizing that adding more concealed firearms to public places does not contribute to public safety. Determining when to use deadly force is a tough decision for trained officers of the law, and civilians using a weapon risk injuring bystanders or being shot accidentally by responding law enforcement. This committee in 2013 considered strengthening CHL requirements to include live-fire training. There is also House legislation introduced this session to require a federal NICS check to obtain a CHL. We should focus on strengthening our own requirements before establishing the standard for visitors to concealed carry.
- 4) Finally, we would encourage the Committee to add the language “who is not prohibited from possessing a firearm” to sections 3-8 of the bill as it appears in section 2.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.