

*Dear Senators Prozanski, Thatcher, Dembrow, Linthicum, Manning:*

*I strongly support the 2nd Amendment, the Oregon constitution which protects the right to keep and bear arms, and the natural law tradition, dating back to Magna Carta, which is expressed by these documents. I agree with the Courts that the conduct governed by the 2nd Amendment is (armed) self-defense, and this is expressed in the historical protections that are granted in this regard to citizens.*

*Historical protections in Oregon include the right to open carry, and over the past quarter of a century, the legislature, responding to the needs of the Oregon people, have extended that to concealed carry.*

*I have taught jurisprudence, have been the faculty advisor to the Bowling Green State University Rifle and Pistol team, and live in a rural area where carrying a firearm is sometimes necessary for wilderness self-protection.*

*On the surface, SB 764 doesn't interfere, as sometimes alleged, with lawful concealed carry. The requirements proposed in the "dash-2" amendments are not an unfair burden as such. It is reasonable to require "live-fire" instruction, and, in fact, I would say it is reasonable to require a proficiency test, as long as that isn't unduly onerous. It is also reasonable to require knowledge of the law. In South Africa, and in many counties in California, which issue of a 'right to carry' basis, the Sheriff requires the same proficiency and knowledge as for a police officer.*

*However, I am troubled by the vagueness of the amendment. Wouldn't it be better to require testing instead of a class, one that has to be run not only by a firearms expert but someone qualified in law? As it is, what does that mean? When I first arrived in Oregon, 27 years ago, I decided that the easiest way to get my OCHL was to take a class. The trainer had an assist. DA address the class. Would that be sufficient? Or perhaps, again, a test, with recommended textbooks by renowned experts like Ayoob, who wrote "In the Gravest Extreme. Even (and I know you'll chuckle at this), the book put out by the Oregon Firearms Federation, which I found very good on the law, even if a little opinionated. This would follow the tradition represented by having NRA instructors do the certifying in Oregon.*

*Or simply: have the Sherriff administer the safety and legal testing. As mentioned above, 'right to carry' Sheriffs in California do this. We are in Oregon and have perhaps greater respect for the natural rights of our citizens, but this could provide a model.*

*Thank you for your time.*

*Dr. Fred Young*