

From: [Jock Dalton](#)
To: [SJUD Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 978 Senate Judiciary Committee Testimony
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Chair, Vice-chair, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I was present for the hearing on Tuesday, but did not get a chance to testify then. I want to address a factor that I did not hear addressed then.

While there was testimony about Sections 26 through 29 of the bill, including one person whose house would become a “gun-free” zone if the bill was passed as written, I did not hear anyone address my concerns.

My wife and I are licensed to carry a concealed handgun under ORS 166.291 and 166.292. This section of the bill allows local authority to restrict our legal right to utilize our license on certain properties. It is assured, given the history of attempts by such local authorities, that a great many, if not all, of those so authorized will use this legislation to prohibit currently authorized practices.

The wording of the bill is very concerning: “...may adopt a policy limiting or precluding the use of the affirmative defense described in ORS 166.370 (3)(g) concerning the possession of firearms in public buildings by persons licensed to carry a concealed handgun under ORS 166.291 and 166.292.” This means that ALL privileges associated with ORS 166.370 (3)(g) are no longer respected, a far-reaching circumstance not obvious to the casual observer.

Despite the rather disingenuous wording of the bill, these sections make it impossible for persons licensed to carry a concealed handgun under ORS 166.291 and 166.292 to perform simple tasks like drop someone off at Portland International Airport without committing a crime unless they leave all firearms at home, thereby denying them the right to self-defense while in route to and from the airport. This is because the bill includes “...the passenger terminal or parking area, or grounds adjacent to the passenger terminal or parking area...” where the firearm cannot be taken, even if it is unloaded and locked in the trunk of the car or other secure container. **Even the section on schools allows affirmative defense for firearms secured in that manner!**

It cannot be argued that no CHL holder could ever need to use his handgun on the grounds of PDX. Someone can legally bring a firearm in on a commercial airline flight, along with ammunition. They could then take the gun out of their checked bag, load it with ammunition from a checked bag, and start shooting. This happened in Florida not that long ago. Terrorists could drive up to the doors of the terminal, jump out with weapons, and rampage through the building. The public using the terminal would be unable to defend themselves.

Concealed Handgun License holders have an exemplary safety record. They are not criminals or terrorists. They do not cause incidents that compromise safety. Why should the State limit their ability to protect themselves and their loved ones as they go about their ordinary, law-abiding lives? Do they not deserve the right to self-defense?

Section 28 addresses firearms in Court facilities. Our local Court recently expressed concerns about safety in their building, which is a “gun-free zone” including signs posted on all the entrances. Jurors complained to a Judge that there was nothing to protect them if someone ignored the signs and brought a weapon into the courtroom and started shooting. The local Sheriff’s office does not have enough manpower to patrol the County, much less provide security in the Court House. While the Judge did not address the issue of CHL’s, he did admit that it was not right for the government to compel jurors to place themselves in a position where they were unable to defend themselves and then not provide for their defense.

I closing, this bill is so flawed in these areas (and many other areas, as well) that it should not be released from the Judiciary Committee without major revisions to address these shortcomings.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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