

Beyond my obvious confusion as to why there is a need to restrict access to public buildings for those in possession of a Conceal Handgun License who wish to carry, I'm truly unaware of any issues with this here in the State of Oregon; and I am quite diligent at keeping up on that sort of data. I've always held the logical view that any place that doesn't take the minimum necessary precautions to prevent anyone entering with a firearm, for instance, a metal detector, is in fact not a gun free zone since only law abiding citizens can be counted on to comply. If a person commits an actual firearm related crime while in a public building, it seems superfluous to adopt ordinances or policies that wouldn't have stopped somebody with criminal intent (unless a metal detector was in use) and would only serve to leave responsible law abiding licensed citizens at risk. Secondly, Article 1, Section 27 clearly states that "The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defense of themselves," and I can't think of anywhere this applies more than public buildings. The only two things I see this bill achieving is discouraging law abiding citizens from pursuing their right to carry a firearm and impedes any citizen who does choose to exercise their rights from participating in what is supposed to be a system of public participation (for instance, I'm submitting this written testimony because my access to this "public Hearing" about my right to carry, ironically, has been denied). Finally, in the current climate of 'anti-law enforcement' and the already existing budget cuts to law enforcement agencies, with more most certainly to come, I'm dubious as to my own State's ability to address the actual bad guys that will continue to act without regards for public safety irregardless of whatever laws you might pass. But I'm certain this will put responsible law abiding citizens at an unnecessary risk of violating what will be an impossible to manage tapestry of 'restricted' zones. Once again the only purpose of that would seem to be to discourage responsible law abiding citizens from exercising their Constitutionally guaranteed right to defend themselves. If you truly feel this is what Oregonians want, then I suggest you amend the Oregon Constitution to modify section 27 of Article 1 to allow for these restrictions, until then you are acting in willful violation of your oath of office.