

My name is Frances Hernandez. I have lived in Salem, Oregon since 1983. I have owned a home here since 1990. I raised my children here who attended the Salem Keizer School District. Never before in the history of Oregon has there been this heightened level of fear that impinges on my family and my daily existence. I feel like we are living in a war zone. The Proud Boys purposely use their right to bear arms to intimidate us now in public spaces. This must be regulated including a city's right to regulate carrying a gun in our public parks. When my children were growing up I was confident they could be free to be kids, to go to parks, walk downtown, run through the sprinklers on the mall, play in the vast and beautiful Bush Park. Now the freedom to grow up without fear has been impaired. I, therefore, support passage of SB554.