

Warm greetings:

I strongly support Senate Bill 554 and its consideration in the House Committee on Rules. Given long histories of and more recent traumatizing, deadly gun violence throughout the United States, it is imperative to restrict where firearms can be carried, including in public parks and building spaces, which are locations for working, learning, resting, playing, and much more. Community members cannot thrive in these spaces when fearing for their lives. Accordingly, I am in full support of authorizing those who have control or ownership of public buildings and the surrounding grounds to adopt rules that limit firearms in public buildings, which includes limiting those with handgun licenses to carry these firearms. This latest wave of mass shootings and killings has caused great fear in me and my students. I no longer feel safe walking outside, as I am always wondering: Could Salem or other parts of Oregon be the next place to make national headlines? This policy would provide a crucial step in preventing these mass atrocities and needless suffering and pain in Salem and beyond. I thank policymakers for doing what is ethically right by voting in favor of SB 554.

Sincerely,

Catalina M. de Onís

Teacher and community member