



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

April 21, 2021

(503) 588-5212 Chair, House Democratic Leader Barbara Smith Warner
(503) 588-5237-FAX Vice Chair, House Republican Leader Christine Drazan
Vice Chair, Representative Paul Holvey
Members of the House Committee on Rules

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RE: Oppose SB 554

Kevin Cameron, Chair
Danielle Bethell
Colm Willis

Dear Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chair Drazan, Vice Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

The Marion County Boards of Commissioners oppose SB 554 and all amendments as of April 21, 2021. This bill, in any iteration, infringes on Oregonian's constitutional rights guaranteed under the second amendment.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The bill would restrict the concealed handgun license (CHL) regulations and inhibit Oregonians from protecting themselves and others.


Jan Fritz


SB 554 would allow local governments and municipalities to regulate when and where concealed handgun licensees would be able to protect themselves and others. Those who are legally allowed to carry a concealed handgun could end up committing a crime in the course of running errands based on a different city or county policy. This bill could criminalize somebody picking up, or dropping off their child at a school, or an individual dropping off or picking up a friend or family member at an airport.

In Oregon, 276,327 people have valid concealed handgun licenses. To get a concealed handgun license, people must be 21, a U.S. citizen who has completed a gun safety course and able to pass a background check with their local sheriffs' department. According to research, less than one-hundredth of one percent (.0074%) of Oregon concealed handgun license holders commit felonies.

While limiting the ability of law abiding citizens to be permitted to carry a concealed weapon there is no evidence that SB 554 would make anyone safer. It would do the opposite. With the possibility of violent crimes, we can't afford to severely limit the ability of Oregonians the right to self-defense.

The Marion County Board of Commissioners urges the committee to oppose SB 554. This bill would limit the ability of our residents to protect themselves.


Kevin Cameron, Chair


Danielle Bethell, Vice Chair


Colm Willis, Commissioner