

Date: April 21, 2021
To: Chair, Representative Barbara Smith Warner
Vice Chair Representative Christine Drazan
House Rules Committee
From: Kerry Spurgin
President, Oregon State Shooting Association (OSSA)
Regarding: OPPOSITION to SB554



On behalf of OSSA, Oregon hunters. and citizens, I would like to testify, IN OPPOSITION TO SB554. Besides having the following major issues the fact that there are 28 registered amendments only underscore the poorly conceived and crafted bill.

- SB554A will create a patchwork of inconsistent ordinances that will inadvertently make felons of law-abiding citizens as they pass through a region, state, or town. In addition, the amendment repealing state firearms preemption will create a maze that will entrap well meaning law-abiding citizens.
- SB554A enables municipalities and port authorities (airports) to make it illegal to travel with firearms for lawful hunting and sporting purposes. An amendment has been proposed but does not account for the fact that the hard-sided case must be unlocked in the passenger terminal, as per federal law and procedure.
- SB554A now incorporates HB2510 but omits the provision for a gun room. Unfortunately, the clarification offered in the 4/21/21 session where gun rooms were excluded is not acceptable. Gun rooms are essential to enable such activities as cleaning, maintenance, and adjustment to be completed, many of which take more time than one session. A gun room is, after all, effectively, a large, locked box in a house.
- As noted by amendment-27 of SB554A, locking of firearms used for personal defense within the home renders the owner unable to “keep and bear arms” as per the 2nd amendment.
- Holding one accountable for unlawful actions of another is not how a responsible judicial system should function.

As noted above, the maze of restrictions will entrap out citizens. Imagine a grandfather is taking his granddaughter or grandson to the range for target practice or traveling across the state to their favorite hunting spot. Only to have car trouble in an unfamiliar city or town and be required to park and work out repairs. Unknowingly, the grandfather missed the random sign imposing SB554s restrictions and suddenly finds himself as a Class C Felon!

Law-abiding hunters and sportsmen would be prevented (infringed) from traveling through the cities and towns and even through airports on their way to their family farm for a hunt, a local range to compete, or to travel into or out of the state to hunt or compete in shooting sports.

Unfortunately, SB554 has become a laundry list of ‘solutions’ leveled on law-abiding citizens to account for unlawful actions of others. For example, during public testimony the incidents in Salem were cited, numerous times, where individuals were recklessly open carrying and intimidated residents. OSSA does not condone unsafe practices with firearms in any way. The problem is 1) such reckless actions with firearms constitute ‘assault’ and the individuals committing the acts should have been detained and charged, or 2) as a part of peaceable assembly the requirement of being truly peaceable be required and enforced. Instead SB554A seeks

to remove rights from individuals not involved in the event. These laws will have no effect on criminal use of firearms.

SB554 will have NO impact on criminal use of firearms, SB554 will only impact and infringe upon the 2nd amendment rights of law-abiding citizens of Oregon and travelers that come to Oregon.

Let's focus on solutions that address the real problems, hold individuals accountable for unsafe acts or criminal acts with firearms. Example: Open carry does not mean you can point a weapon at someone. Hold criminals accountable for theft of firearms.

Most importantly, let's amp up the support for crisis and mental health resources to prevent unwanted use of firearms. Repeatedly, we have heard of "we knew he was at risk" but no action was taken. OSSA is engaging with Oregon Firearms Safety Council to drive awareness, education, and resources to help Oregon gun owners, and their families, be safe.

I am an Oregon citizen as well as a member and President of the Oregon State Shooting Association (OSSA). The Oregon State Shooting Association directly represents nearly 15,000 members through member clubs and individual membership to foster safe and responsible firearms use as well as family-oriented shooting sports in Oregon. Additionally, OSSA provides information, resources, and assistance to over 100,000 Oregon hunters. OSSA, and its members, are strong supporters of the 2nd Amendment of the Bill of Rights, the US Constitution, and the Oregon Constitution that support the rights and responsibilities of responsible firearm owners.

I ask, on behalf of OSSA's Members, that the committee and the Oregon legislature REJECT SB554A – SB554A does not address the root of the problems, will make felons of law-abiding citizens, levies misplaced accountability, and have NO impact on criminal use of firearms.

Kerry Spurgin

President, Oregon State Shooting Association.