

Chair Smith-Warner, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Holvey, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Michael S Berry. I am submitting this written testimony to voice my opposition to 2021 Senate Bill 554 A-Engrossed with Amendment 20 (requested by Senator Courtney).

Specifically-

1. It is arguable that the addition of an "emergency clause" has the effect of doing an "end-run" around the will of the voting public. I consider this to be unacceptable.

2. The Oregon Legislature has recently been busy passing legislation that

a) consciously legalized formerly illicit drugs, and

b) reduced penalties for some of the worst crimes (against the will of voters as expressed through their initiative- ref: 1994 Oregon Ballot Measure 11).

Meanwhile, against this backdrop of anarchy- the Oregon Legislature has taken little or no action to address an epidemic of violent crimes including riots that have led to attacks upon law enforcement officers and a disturbing amount of property destruction. Some of alleged perpetrators may work as staff at the Capitol (check with Rep. Kotek).

The point is this: crime in general and violent crime in particular seems to be on the rise. It is wrong to increase and create barriers to self-protection, especially at a time when it is becoming increasingly necessary.

3. I have seen convincing testimony both FOR and AGAINST this legislation. Perhaps the most compelling testimony that I've sampled was "remote verbal" testimony provided by a lady from Washington County during a public hearing conducted on Feb 22, 2021 before the Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation. Please invest about 3 minutes and listen to her testimony using the following link: https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2021021316&startStreamAt=7283&stopStreamAt=7483&fbclid=IwAR1d71AfFqZiPygdYftFNTk3as_cOW7KguqNqM5-Iscnn8rNUgghv38D0Q.

This bill should not move out of this committee. Please kill this bill now. Let us focus any legislative efforts toward effective actions that address challenging issues with the goal of making life better for the citizenry.

If you do not decide to kill this bill, I request that you at least evaluate the merits of additional Amendments, including but not limited to

a) Amendment 12 (Ref.: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/ProposedAmendment/20439>)

b) Amendment 15 (Ref.: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/ProposedAmendment/20438>), and

c) Amendment 27 (Ref.: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/ProposedAmendment/20440>).

Then, include Amendments as appropriate.

Thank you.

Signed,

Michael S. (Mike) Berry

Concerned resident of Oregon