

I am a veteran of 42 years of law enforcement service including 15 years as a Chief of Police. I am now retired and have lived in Oregon since 2003. I urge you to oppose this unnecessary proposed legislation. It accomplishes nothing of a positive nature and only serves to penalize law abiding citizens of this state. I defy the supporters of this bill to cite even one example of a lawfully licensed concealed handgun carrier misusing a firearm in any of the places where this bill would allow concealed handgun carry to be prohibited. Citizens lawfully armed do not pose a threat to public safety. In fact, particularly during this era of police agency downsizing, having responsible, armed citizens present in places which often lack a police presence can be an asset. I am authorized, under federal law, as an honorably retired law enforcement officer, to carry a concealed handgun in all 50 states and without the onerous restrictions which this bill proposes. If this law passes it will only be in Oregon where my federal authority will be null and void in the places included in this legislation. The federal law was passed for good reason under the Bush Administration and was renewed by the Obama Administration. Both political parties have recognized, since 2004, the advantage of having responsible, armed citizens available to assist law enforcement particularly when no other assistance is available. I would point out, particularly as regards airports, that federal law and TSA regulations allow for firearms to be transported on aircraft locked in a secure manner in checked baggage. If this law passes the moment the firearm's owner takes possession of his/her checked baggage which includes an unloaded and locked firearm that person will become a criminal in the State of Oregon. This bill, if passed, will do absolutely nothing to deter criminals, who defy laws and are ineligible to possess a concealed handgun license, from carrying a weapon in the places included in this bill. What you will do, if you pass this proposed legislation, will amount only to a "feel good" effort when, in reality, it will accomplish nothing other than to deprive law abiding citizens of their rights under the second amendment of the U S Constitution. I urge you to oppose this legislation.