

18 February 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Re: Senate Bill 554

Dear Chair Senator Prozanski, Vice-Chair Senator Thatcher and members of the Committee.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 554 and strongly urge you to let it die in Committee.

If anyone can be trusted to carry a firearm anywhere in public it is those who have had vetted to do so and have had training, e.g., law enforcement personnel, concealed firearm license holders. Sponsors of this legislation know a citizen holding a CHL has proven they have no criminal background, have received training in the safe use of firearms and poses no threat to anyone, yet they assume they are a threat to the public. It is "guilty until proven innocent" in all respects.

Among other misguided ideas this bill actually states, "... limiting or precluding affirmative defense for possession of firearms in public buildings by concealed handgun licensees." Why in the world would the drafters of this legislation want to limit defense—of anyone? Have they disarmed their armed State Police Troopers in the capitol?

Besides the obvious infringement on my Constitutional right to "keep and bear arms" this legislation accomplishes nothing except salving the consciences of those who think any firearm is a threat and anyone who has one is a danger to the public, a ridiculous premise on which to base legislation.

The sponsors of this legislation have apparently forgotten—criminals do not obey laws. Whatever their hopes are for this bill to accomplish, it has nothing to do with criminal activity aside from turning law abiding citizens into criminals.

Again, please let this misguided legislation get no further. It is a bad idea in all respects.

Sincerely,



Richard Wisner