

18 February 2020

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 554.

The hundreds of thousands of Oregon gun owners who hold concealed-carry permits have undergone extra training and a rigorous background check, in effect making a good-faith agreement with the State that by submitting to these extra measures they may be allowed to enhance their already-existing right to self-defense. SB 554 is a slap in the face to these Oregonians – nearly 275,000 -- and a total abrogation of their good-faith effort.

SB 554 is expressly designed to entrap Oregon concealed-carry permit holders in a legal Catch-22 by creating a confusing briar-patch of regulations. This is precisely the same tactic used by politicians to curtail the rights of citizens in other shameful periods of our history, such as during the Jim Crow era in the South. The notion that this legislation is justified by allowing individual entities to decide for themselves who include or exclude from public property is a charade. Shall we return to “sundown” ordinances as well?

Oregon’s concealed-carry permit holders are ordinary, law-abiding people who take their right to self-defense seriously. How dare the Legislature entertain the notion of ensnaring these citizens in a web of regulation designed only to disarm and punish them for exercising their rights.

Sincerely,

Alexander Mitchell

Newberg, OR