

SB554, is an unconstitutional attack on Oregon's law-abiding gun owners. Among other things, SB554:

-- will turn law-abiding gun owners, including but not limited to holders of Oregon concealed handgun licenses, into felons overnight simply by driving by an airport, or any loosely-defined public building, crossing imaginary "no gun" lines that will be impossible for law-abiding citizens to discern. Thus SB554 is in effect a back-door repeal of the CHL provisions of our laws, and a destruction of the right to keep and bear arms in Oregon, as if both open and concealed carry are for all practical purposes eliminated, the right ceases to exist. How does a gun owner driving across the state know where he or she is permitted to possess a firearm? Are we to stop, pull over, and unload and lock our firearms in a safe as we cross invisible county or property or "adjacent to" lines? The supposed signage requirement in the bill is a joke, and grossly insufficient to put any gun owner on notice.

--given the criminal penalties in SB554, once a law-abiding Oregon gun owner is prosecuted for crossing these imaginary lines around and "adjacent to" the schools and airports and other locations, he or she will then become prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm in any other state in the USA for the rest of their lives. This is unconscionable as well as unconstitutional.

--hunters picking up their sons or daughters at Redmond Airport or other airports in order to go hunting will become felons. For those of us in Central and Eastern Oregon, and other rural areas, there will be no practical, lawful way to take a family member hunting who flies into Oregon, given that many of us already have very long drives to even get to an airport. Oregon's professional hunting guides, who bring in millions of dollars of revenue to Oregon through out of state clients, will be put out of business.

--a single mother driving to the airport to pick up her teenage daughter flying home from college, and who has to traverse many miles of dark, lonely country roads with no cell service (and no sheriff who could respond to a call in less than an hour even if there were) on the way home will be forced to be completely defenseless.

--SB554 unconstitutionally gives full immunity from suit or damages to any state or local law enforcement or other official who violates our rights, even if intentionally. This is simply a roadmap for unfair prosecution of law-abiding gun owners by authorities in Portland and other areas who hate all gun owners--they can violate our rights without any recourse if SB 554 is enacted.

--Law abiding gun owners are among the safest citizens in Oregon-- Indeed, CHL holders have already been fingerprinted and interviewed by their sheriff and passed background checks. They are not the criminals. But SB554 will treat them as criminals. No data has been presented to justify a compelling need for SB554. There is NO EVIDENCE of any crimewave by lawful gun owners at Oregon's airports, schools, or public buildings. This is a radical, extreme bill promulgated by those who hate gun owners and want to disarm Oregonians. If this bill passes, then you should realize it presents a green light for any city or town in Oregon to, for example, ban abortions, or homeless people. You cannot pick and choose which constitutional rights local officials and property owners are permitted to violate.