

February 18, 2021

Re: SB 554, gun/firearm bill.

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Committee Members,

I am a fellow Oregon resident and citizen; I ask that you please oppose Senate Bill 554. It is a bad idea for several reasons.

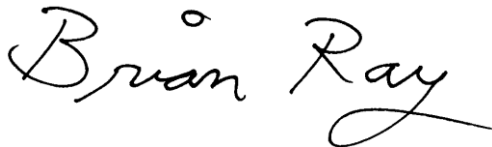
Senate Bill 554 will create new and misleading-named "gun-free zones" by giving authority to local governments, universities, and airports to prohibit concealed carry permit holders from carrying in local government buildings, colleges and universities (including their grounds), and airports (and grounds "adjacent" to all of these locations).

It is plain wrong that punishment for a violation of these location restrictions will be a Class C felony, which is punishable by up to five years of imprisonment and a \$125,000 fine. This is horrid, especially given the new "adjacent grounds" language. It is especially horrid that such language would cause our fellow citizens to unknowingly commit a serious felony, and this law would make it likely for this to happen.

SB 554 would also increase permit fees from \$50 to \$100 on initial applications, and from \$50 to \$75 for renewals. Such fees are extra in-equitable and hard on the low-income and single-income household adults. Increasing fees on carry permits places financial burden on the Second Amendment and taxes individuals out of exercising their Constitutional Rights. This is a bad bill. Please stop SB 554 now.

Finally, there are plenty of laws now that work to stop people from doing evil things. We just need to enforce those laws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Ray". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.
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