

As an Oregon Concealed Handgun License holder, I strongly oppose SB554. This bill will make it virtually impossible for any CHL holder to carry a gun without accidentally committing a felony while engaging in normal daily activities. By creating a patchwork of no-go zones for CHL holders, we will be forced to either leave our guns at home, or risk a felony charge considering that even parking areas may be included in the definition of "public building" thereby eliminating the option of leaving a firearm in a vehicle. Even worse, just driving by a public building (such as dropping off a friend at the airport or university) could put a CHL holder at risk of a felony conviction. It is obvious to me that the sponsors of this bill are trying to effectively eliminate the CHL statute in any practical sense by making it so difficult to carry a gun legally that people end up leaving their defensive handguns at home. Oregon has long had the preemption statute for the sake of a consistent body of law that everyone can know and abide by. Allowing local restrictions on the possession of firearms by CHL holders creates confusion and inconsistency in the legal framework. This is nothing but a legal minefield for those who seek to legally exercise their right to carry a handgun for self defense. CHL holders are statistically the least likely of any group of citizens to commit a crime. We should not be passing laws that only cause entrapment for those who are actively seeking to follow the law. Reject confusion, reject entrapment, reject SB 554.