

Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher

My name is Burt Darnielle. I am writing to come before you in opposition to Senate Bill 554.

I have been a NRA certified firearms instructor for about 12 years and have instructed several hundred Oregon citizens in the safe operation, ownership and maintenance of all types of handguns. My students leave my class with a great sense of responsibility, whether or not they are trying to use the certificate I give them to apply for a concealed permit. They represent a very wide range of demographics. Conservative, liberal, independent, straight, gay, young and old. Fill in the blank and you'll get an idea of who is taking my classes. The number one thing I teach is safety. It is paramount in my 8 hour class. I know that all of my students are going to be responsible firearm owners when they receive my certificate. Many are very concerned with the rampant lawlessness in our great state and lack of action by law enforcement and prosecutors to hold "real criminals" to account for their actions. Those of you who are supposedly, our representatives fail to see just concerned the general law abiding public really is. They are terrified to go anywhere near downtown Portland or Eugene. Both of which have become cesspools of drugs, riots, homelessness, gang shootings, murders and general crime. This is also spreading to many communities outside the greater metro area, So, I ask you, why are you trying to make felons out of your constituents who can no longer rely on the police, to enforce the existing laws by using this completely political and bias bunch of idiotic and dangerous rules? SB 554 would make it so difficult, law abiding citizens would not have a chance to follow the law. Everyone I speak to is very concerned about the prospect of becoming a felon because of the rules in this proposed law. Yes, this includes many liberal voters. Political affiliation is not a factor in their concern. I urge you to not let this bill advance out of committee. It is extremely dangerous to the law abiding and will do absolutely nothing to stop the rampant crime wave taking over our great state of Oregon. Hint; criminals do not obey the law!

Thank you

Msgt. Burt Darnielle USN / USAF Ret.

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