

Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher,

My name is Adam Byers, I'm submitting this written testimony in opposition of bill 554. Oregon's concealed carry laws are already restrictive and overbearing enough. Bill 554 only serves to further reduce Oregonians' right to "Keep and *Bear* arms" by way of further restrictions and fees. This is an attack on the right of people who are *statistically the most law abiding and least likely to commit a crime*.

I have personally assisted a family member in getting their concealed handgun license after their separation from their abusive husband. The restrictions in place made this a difficult and (more importantly) time-consuming process for the family member. At the time, coming up with the necessary training, and licence fees was difficult for them. Navigating the law, where they were allowed to carry, use of force laws, etc. was also difficult. Several times the question was brought up "why do I have to do all this just to be able to protect myself and my kids?"

Bill 554 would double the cost of a concealed handgun license, and further muddy the waters on where one can and cannot carry. A concealed handgun is only effective if you are allowed to carry it. 554 is an attack on Oregonians' rights and I urge you to not allow this bill to move forward.

Thank you,

Adam Byers