

February 20, 2021

Reference: SB 554 Testimony

Dear Chair Prozanski and Vice-Chair Thatcher,

My name is Vince Harris, I submit before you in **OPPOSITION** to Senate Bill 554 this written testimony.

I represent a very large family of multi-generational Oregonians. All of which own firearms and some with concealed gun licenses. The reasons that these individual have firearms is wide spread. Some of us use them for hunting. Some for target shooting. Some for collecting. But most for personal and family protection. We are not fanatics of any kind. We highly respect safety and teach our kids to handle firearms with the utmost of safe practices.

Those of us that have concealed licenses and wish to carry a firearm in public, look at it as a civic duty to be prepared to step in and help someone or ourselves if such a situation should arise. We do not wish to replace law enforcement, but to be there when law enforcement can't. Most of us are the ones who step forward in the face of crime and not run from it. We are the ones who stand up to criminals who see our laws as nothing more than a mere bump in there pursuit of a free ride in society. The bill would do nothing to curb any form of gun violence. Nor, make anyone safer. I challenge you or anyone on your committee to show where a "Concealed Gun Licensee" committed a public gun related offence on public property. They are not criminals, but simple law abiding citizens. Do not make them criminal with this law.

This is a bill formed and based on pure fear. A fear grown out of ignorance of the very items you wish to ban. The mere sight of a gun terrifies you, and your personal prejudices drives you see the person who is carrying the gun as an attacker on the verge of shooting you and everyone around you.

This bill isn't meant to protect. It is meant to BAN guns. Please don't paint it any other way.

I ask that his bill be left to die in your committee and to please focus on the real things our state needs. Gun control is not one of them. The infighting between African Americans and between the Latino's is a huge problem directly related to gun violence. Why are blacks shooting blacks? And Latino's shooting Latino's.

I thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on this bill, and hope that you do the right thing and put this bill to rest.

Sincerely,

Vince Harris
Oregon Resident and Voter