

We are writing to express strong support for SB 554. Loaded, hidden guns do NOT belong in Oregon's public schools, colleges, the Portland airport, or the Oregon Capitol building. The carrying of concealed, loaded guns in public places can quickly escalate everyday conflicts into deadly altercations, causing tragic, irreversible damage to innocent lives.

Just one research-documented fact: the most comprehensive and rigorous study of concealed carry laws found that in states with weak permitting laws, violent crime rates were 13% to 15% higher than predicted had such laws not been in place. John J. Donohue, Abhay Aneja, and Kyle D. Weber, "Right-to-Carry Laws and Violent Crime: A Comprehensive Assessment Using Panel Data and a State-Level Synthetic Control Analysis," *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* 16, no. 2 (2019): 198–247.

Recent violent crimes perpetrated on our own state and federal capitols should be objective and critically instructive lessons. Insurrectionist groups across the country who use violence to menace those who do not agree with them are increasing in frequency and result in injury and death.

Research has shown that lax RTC (Right to Carry) or Concealed Weapon Licenses carry huge risks. It has shown that the mere presence of weapons increases aggressive thoughts, hostile appraisals, and aggression, suggesting a cognitive route from weapons to aggression.

Restrictions need to be placed on the locations where carrying concealed weapons is allowed.

Thanks for your service and consideration,

Submitted by Jean Carlton on behalf of Brant Mellor and Wendy Krebs-Mellor
Bend, OR