

February 20, 2021

Committee: Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher

My name is Nikki Zampardo

I come before you in opposition to Senate Bill 554.

SB 554 is a poorly constructed bill that is clearly disguised to diminish law-abiding gun owner's rights. By drafting and approving legislation like this, legislature is clearly attempting to imprison regular citizens for exercising their 2nd amendment rights. Therefore, it is unjust, violates law abiding citizen's constitutional rights, and criminalizes routine behavior. There is no evidence to support the need for such a bill, as Oregon already has strict gun laws currently in place; see ORS 166.291.

This bill is clearly not in the best interest of Oregonians. Criminals MOST CERTAINLY will not abide by this law, or any other laws for that matter. Criminals will continue purchasing their weapons illegally, leaving law-abiding Oregonians completely unable to legally protect themselves or their family. Oregonians have the constitutional right to protect themselves from harm. Every politician and legislature enjoys protection at the cost of the taxpayers, citizens should be allowed to the same protections as well.

Also, any and all senate and house bills should be put to a vote of the people, as each and every politician takes an oath of office in the civil service or uniformed services; "I, (say your name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

Here are actual emergency situations in need of attention in Oregon and how they have been handled to date:

- 1) Massive fires, many were set deliberately, that destroyed homes and caused the death of Oregonians as well. The Santiam Fire started off as a small/containable fire at first. Instead of our Governor reaching out to the Federal government, she allowed this fire to spread and destroyed approximately 250,000 acres, hundreds of homes, and the loss of lives as well. When someone in Oregon was arrested for arson, they were released on low or no bail, one arsonist that was released set additional fires after his release. Even though our state received federal funds, many of these residents have STILL not received any assistance whatsoever some have been fortunate to stay with friends and family members, many are still homeless.
- 2) The destruction of many businesses, looting, vandalism, arson, assaulting of police officers and residents in Oregon under the "guise" of "Peaceful Protesting". The state of Oregon strictly prohibits the following actions regarding protests; if you endanger others while protesting, you can be arrested. A protest that blocks vehicular or pedestrian traffic is illegal without a permit. You do not have the right to block a building entrance or physically harass people. The general rule is that free speech activity cannot take place on

private property, including shopping malls, without consent of the property owner. You do not have the right to remain on private property after being told to leave by the owner. Even though some arrests were made in Oregon, they were released the same/following day, many of these same people committed additional crimes after being released since they were never prosecuted for the crimes they committed to begin with. Many of these business owners suffered vandalism, looting, and arson were unable to recoup their expenses through insurance claims, as insurance companies DO NOT COVER “acts of rioting”, which has been one of the biggest false narratives that was widely and falsely reported repeatedly. Many of these businesses were already suffering prior to these acts and were refused PPP loans for being the “wrong color”. Many employees employed by these businesses **still have not received a penny** of unemployment since March 2020 and finally just gave up trying to claim the money they were rightfully entitled to.

- 3) Finally, the most urgent emergency that this state has still failed to properly address is the increase in teen suicides due to schools remaining closed for almost a year now. Please reference the attached following article;
<https://newsregister.com/article?articleTitle=apparent-suicide-claims-life-of-amity-middle-schooler--1603911296--38515--news>. This story has become far too common in this state and someone needs to be held accountable for the wrongful deaths of these teenagers, as every one of these suicides were foreseeable and completely preventable. If a parent engaged in the activity that the teacher’s unions and government officials engaged in for the past year, they would be charged with child neglect, child mental abuse, and wrongful death. Even though the governor has asked/suggested that Oregon schools reopen for “in-person” learning and allowed teachers to jump in line before the elderly, many of these schools are still making excuses and refusing to reopen schools. I would hope that teen suicides and the need to hold people accountable for the tragic/preventable deaths would not be a partisan issue. One thing that all Oregonians seem to agree upon lately, regardless of political affiliation, is that they are tired of executive orders being passed into law without the vote of the people, the continuous lockdown of this state, violation of constitutional rights, and the continuing closure of schools and businesses. I have lived in the state for 52 years (3rd generation Oregonian) and I have never witnessed such an overwhelming desire of residents to flee this state. Many have already moved and many others have recently sold their homes and are in the process of moving.

I would like to advise the committee to Kill the Bill.

Thank you,

Nikki Zampardo

