

I am writing in opposition to SB 554. Thank you for taking this submission. CHL holders in Oregon have a history of scrupulously following regulation under ORS166. Statistics prove that nationally CHL holders are among the most law abiding citizens in general. Oregon holders are no exception. To make this bill law is to punish the law abiding. The patchwork of new laws that would arise would be most difficult to navigate and turn respectable citizens into criminals for the simple act of taking responsibility for their own security. The Supreme Court in Gonzalez vs Castle Rock (2005) ruled that law enforcement has no obligation to protect people and are shielded from liability when they don't do so. SB 554 would effectively strip those who take that responsibility on themselves of the natural right to self defense. The continuing street violence and rising violent crime against persons rate in Portland points out how easy the law abiding are made victims and how ineffective government is to prevent it. Self defense is a natural and civil right defended under the Second Amendment. We law abiding citizens strive to work within the law and with government to take responsibility for our own security. Please, don't make criminals out of the people who have demonstrated they are among the best of this state's citizens.

Sincerely,

Ron Alvarez  
Bend, Oregon