

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Senate Judiciary Committee Members

I am a retired attorney who represented women as an Americorps attorney 1998-2000 at Lane County Legal Aid. My cases were exclusively Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

The passage of this bill is necessary because firearms in the Oregon Capitol are chilling to free speech and a danger to the public, as evidenced by the attack on the US Capitol 1/6/2021.

When persons like my former clients choose to testify regarding firearms and public safety, it can be traumatic for them to see firearms in the building, especially if firearms were part of the abuse they have survived. They may become overwhelmed and choose to leave, giving up their civic rights. No one should feel unsafe in the Oregon Capitol.

There is no need for the public to bring firearms to the Capitol or other public buildings. We do not allow them in county courthouses and they have no place in other public buildings for public safety. There are law enforcement officers present in these buildings for public safety. Random members of the public, armed, present a danger to the public and police, especially if a dangerous and confusing situation were to occur. The public does not have the regulation and training law enforcement officers have achieved to respond to such situations appropriately.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.