

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

This message is in support of Senate Bill 554 which would allow schools and local governments to limit open or concealed carry of guns in public places. In general it is intimidating and alarming to members of the public when they are confronted by people carrying guns. Public places such as hospitals, schools, colleges, courthouses, and other government places should be a haven for all citizens to come and feel safe. These places have the protection of security officials whose responsibility is to protect everyone present. With few exceptions, guns in these public settings often bring harm rather than safety to those who are there.

If a local jurisdiction did take advantage of Senate Bill 554, it would not change the freedom that gun owners have to carry their weapons while hunting, target shooting, having a gun collection, or protecting themselves in their homes.

Please give local governments the option of limiting guns that are being carried or concealed in public places so everyone feels safe.

Carol Foley

Oregon citizen