

Dear Senators,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

It is past time to pass laws to protect my community. Given recent Oregon and national events as well as the recommendation by the Department of Homeland Security to prioritize security measures at government facilities, SB 554 is especially important because it allows school districts, local governments and other public entities to have more control over the safety of their buildings. That means the decision whether to allow CHL holders in public buildings would be determined by those who know their community best, not politicians in Salem. This bill would make our schools safer. County buildings where the public goes for information and services would be much safer if this bill is passed. It is very unsafe for armed public to be gathering around our state capital with weapons used during war. It intimidates other members of the community from coming to the capital to speak to our senators and representative. I am sure my Senator, James Manning and Representative, Julie Fahey would rather work for a better Oregon, and not have to worry about armed citizens coming into the capital to cause fear and possible injury, or death.

With the rise in anti-democratic extremism, we need to make sure local officials have the tools they need to protect public safety. SB 554 will help keep guns out of schools, off college campuses, and help give local officials the tools they need to protect buildings essential to the functioning of government at the state and county level.

Thank you for your consideration,.

Cindy Wilson, Eugene, Oregon