

Chair Prozanski and Vice Chair Thatcher:

RE: SB 554

The Founders of our Nation drafted the First Amendment of our great Constitution guaranteeing rights, freedoms and parameters as to rights of free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, and to petition their governments. These inalienable rights are guaranteed.

The Second Amendment was drafted so as to allow citizens to protect the First Amendment rights, their homes, their families and communities by guaranteeing "the right of the people to keep and bear arms" and that this shall NOT be infringed upon.

In the past few sessions of the Oregon Legislature, this right has been constantly attacked and threatened by Bills taking that right away from citizens who are under mounting pressure to be able to defend their homes, their families and their communities from the increasing threats of gangs, criminals and insurrectionists.

In the past year, the Governor has emptied convicted felons of every type and style from prisons under the guise of Covid. These felons are now on the streets. The Governor then made quasi-legal the possession and sale of dangerous drugs such as meth, fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, etc. This further endangers our communities. The Governor and Mayor of Portland, along with the D.A., have turned a blind eye to gangs destroying downtown Portland, assaulting innocent people and even murder. And to decreasing police departments, thus insuring more innocent people will be victimized. The immigration laws now have been set aside so that more illegal immigrants from South America will stream into Oregon and Oregon will turn a blind eye. The core of this travesty will be encouraged lawlessness in Oregon brought about by lawmakers and political leaders.

At the same time, the Democrat Legislators have backed bills to take away the ability of honest, law abiding citizens to protect themselves and their families by enacting ill-thought-out gun control measures. This gun control won't bother the felons and criminals. It will take away the rights of honest citizens instead.

Look at the statistics and please note the number of shootings by law abiding citizens compared to the criminal element and tell me that these proposed laws will not lead to increased crime when criminals know law-abiding people are unarmed. There is only one conclusion.

I am asking this Committee to not pass out SB 554 or any other firearm bill that will "infringe" upon the rights of Oregon's citizens to keep and bear arms. This will lead to tragedy and heartache for innocent people.

Please kill this onerous Bill.

Thank you,
Diane Pohl
Clatskanie, Oregon