

RE: Senate Bill 554 Written Testimony.

Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher and Senate Judiciary Committee Members
Dembrow, Geiser, Heard, Linthicum and Manning

My name is Walter Kennedy, and I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 554 and its amendments.

SB 554 does nothing to make Oregon any safer, in fact it does just the opposite. At a time when violence and destruction has been raging in the streets for nearly a year this bill hand cuffs the state's most law-abiding citizens. This bill only creates felony traps by allowing nearly any public agency to create their own rules regarding CHL holders. If we only imposed the punishments in SB 554 when punishing actual criminals who commit crimes with guns, I wonder where our state would be.

The fact that Ms. Burdick has introduced an amendment placing an "emergency clause" on the bill and with the reduction of available oral testimony shows that there is a disregard for what the people have to say about SB 554. What is the need for the emergency clause? Has there been a string of crimes or violent acts committed by CHL holders?

The "emergency clause" inserted into legislation is being abused and is an attempt to silence the people. The people deserve a voice on legislation per our state constitution. Our voice is our vote, and it seems that this has been forgotten by those in Salem that impose emergency clauses on bills that do not have the support of the people.

I urge you to vote no on SB 554.

Thank you for your time.

Walter Kennedy
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