

SB 554 seems to be a solution in search of a problem. CHL permit holders almost never commit crimes on public property with firearms. In fact, CHL holders exhibit the lowest rate of crime of any group, including law enforcement, according to the Crime Prevention Research Center. Over 95% of mass shootings occur in gun free zones. Banning CHL Holders from carrying on public property will create more gun free zones, and will likely increase the frequency of mass shootings on public property. This will only reduce public safety in Oregon.

From the standpoint of CHL permit holders, SB 554 will make their lives more complex and difficult since those in urban areas will have to deal with a plethora of exceptions and "no go" areas that they would have to deal with in their daily lives. If a CHL permit holder has to enter one of these no firearms zones, they would need to do something with the firearm they are carrying. Many would likely leave the firearm in their vehicle, where there is a definite risk of it being stolen. Since the majority of crimes with firearms are committed with stolen guns, this may result in more guns being available to criminals, something that no one wants to see.

Overall, SB 554 is a badly conceived bill, which is likely to make the public less safe and may increase the supply of guns to criminals.