

Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher. My name is Joseph Crawford. I come before you in opposition to Senate Bill 554. This Bill is another attempt to override, re-write and ignore our Constitutional Rights as citizens. Just another bite of the judicial apple to step on protections from the government. Oregon has current measures to vet conceal carry permit holders and deem them safe, for the greater society at large. This is proven based on available statistics. From a 2016 article in Guns to Carry, they compared seven states conceal carry holders. This showed out of the 19 conceal carry permit holders arrested for any felonies in Oregon that year, only .0074 were convicted which works out to be less than one whole individual. In September 2020, USCCA (US Conceal Carry) shows 276,000 conceal carry permits issued in Oregon. In my recent search for any and all data related to Oregonians concealed carrying firearms I could not find any negative examples where there were any convictions.

SB554 is an unnecessary solution to a problem that does not exist. Once again, before issuing a permit, the state has every opportunity to thoroughly review each applicant's history. Many permit holders apply in others states due to Oregon's limited reciprocity with neighboring states. These individual are double and triple scrutinized by law enforcement agencies. What it boils down to is, are these people safe or are they not safe? Is the state of Oregon not able to reliable scrutinize the data provided at it's own request? If that is the case how can we have trust in any state certified individual? From law enforcement to the courts or judiciary as a whole?

We cannot and should not put unsubstantiated fears above the rights of the individual. SB554 should not move out of committee. Thank you.