

Chair Prozanski and Vice-chair Thatcher,

My name is Byron Hadley. I come before you in opposition to Senate Bill 554, whose primary effect would be to create a new class of "accidental criminals" out of otherwise law-abiding Oregonians, and to make our communities less safe. As someone who works in the criminal justice field as my profession, I encourage you to ask both District Attorneys and defense attorneys, who will readily confirm that people with homicidal intent will not comply with additional prohibitions like what SB 554 contemplates. Consult your common sense, and please realize that such laws do not change the minds of homicidal criminals. Instead, the laws would merely entrap Oregonians who are merely looking to protect themselves and others. Passing something like this also leads to a false sense of security, because the absence of law-abiding concealed-carry license holders in a given environment makes that situation less safe. Please do not allow SB 554 to move forward. Thank you.

Byron Hadley