

I am a Law Enforcement Officer in Oregon. I am a firearms trainer at my agency, and am a member of our SWAT team. I own firearms to protect me and my loved ones from what is becoming an increasingly hostile society, especially to people in my line of work.

I am submitting this testimony with regard to Senate Bill 554 which has the eventual effect of making law abiding citizens a felon for possessing a firearm in certain areas, though they applied for and received a concealed handgun license to carry. Where they once could carry, they will soon be unable to do so. Yet these citizens who have a concealed carry permit are far and away NOT the ones committing the crimes you ostensibly are looking to reduce with this flawed and misguided bill.

It's outrageous that someone like my wife, whom I encouraged to get her concealed carry permit in order to defend herself and our children when I'm away at work, could be subject to 5 years in prison for taking the responsibility to protect them from criminals. The lawless do not care about gun-free zones. Those areas are instead soft targets of opportunity. Yet, the law-abiding will be the ones to suffer here as they will yet again have their ability restricted to defend themselves, their loved ones, and their fellow citizens.

This bill is yet again another attempt at infringement upon our 2nd Amendment Rights, and will punish the law abiding more than it will hinder the acts of the lawless. This is not how to rightly govern, or how to legislate a safe society, and you all know it.