

Good morning to the Chair and Members of the committee

My name is Martha Moultry. I live in the city of Eugene in Lane County.

I am a retired elementary teacher and principal with 38 years experience as an educator, 25 of those in the Eugene School District 4J. I am testifying in favor of SB554, specifically as it pertains to school buildings.

Every day parents send their most precious treasures, their children, to schools to get an education. They entrust us to protect those children while they are in our care and we take that job very seriously.

Part of this involves ensuring that the school campus is safe. Currently allowing members of the public to bring weapons onto our campuses prevents us from doing that part of our job and puts the lives of those children entrusted to us, as well as our staffs, in danger. We have safety drills on a regular basis but we need more.

Guns have no place on a school campus, period. School staffs experience angry and emotionally distraught and unstable parents, guardians, and members of the community every single day. Teachers and administrators do a remarkable job of calming these people; we should not have to worry about a gun being part of that mix.

No law is perfect and laws cannot prevent a person from coming onto campus with a concealed weapon. But the simple posting that guns are forbidden and the knowledge that someone breaking that law can be prosecuted will deter most and make our campuses safer.

I urge you to pass SB554 which will provide safety not only for our schools but for many other public spaces as well.