

Dear Chair Prozanski and Vice-Chair Thatcher,

My name is Janessa Pogue and I testify to you in opposition to Senate Bill 554.

The citizens of Oregon who have purchased a concealed handgun license have done their lawful duty, and are going above and beyond those citizens who possess a handgun illegally, either for criminal purposes, or for home defense. The right to keep and bear arms of those lawful citizens should be protected at all costs. If penalties are put upon them for adhering to that right, then the lawful citizens are punished and the criminals rewarded.

Article 1, Section 27 of the Oregon Constitution states, "The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defense of themselves, and the State, but the Military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power."

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

If this bill were to be passed in your committee, it would be a grave infringement and dangerous violation of the peoples' right to bear arms, as well as a breach of trust in the law of the land, and you as the representatives of that law. The purpose of these laws is to regulate and maintain a militia of the people that can protect themselves and secure the freedom of the entire nation from enemies within and without. If Oregon chooses to punish and infringe upon those rights, then this great state will have put itself in serious danger from enemy attack upon the lives, property and economic wealth of its citizens. It also strips the rights of freedom and liberty to ensure liberty from our children and future generations. This is not an act the members of this committee, or the legislators of the state of Oregon want to be accountable for to their children.

I sincerely request and seriously charge you to kill this bill in committee, as I believe it will be extremely dangerous to the prosperity and trust of this great state. Please respect the lawful actions of those who expect their right to keep and bear arms to be protected. Please make the choice to keep the law as dictated by our Constitution, and do not infringe on the freedom of this state.

Thank you.

Janessa Pogue