

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives

I object to HB554.

HB554 seeks to ban "weapons" including pepper spray which is a non-lethal self defense tool, many people carry pepper spray and many an elderly man or woman has one in their purse or pocket. The simple act of picking up their grandchild at the airport could render them a felon subject to an enormous fine and possible jail time. I object to this and think it is unnecessary.

I'm an Oregon Concealed Carry License (CCL) holder. Like all those with a CCL I'm a law abiding citizen. My only interest and reason to carry a weapon on my person is to protect myself, my family and friends in case of an active shooter or bad criminal shooting situation. A concealed weapon could also be used to defend against someone with a mental illness that renders them violent, irrational and possibly homicidal. Calling 911 in Portland can take several minutes to several tens of minutes until an officer arrives, by then it may be too late.

2020 saw a sharp rise in violent crime here in Portland where I live and there is an explosion in the number of homeless many with mental health and or substance abuse problems. Not all of those are violent but enough are that I don't feel safe in some neighborhoods especially at night. Downtown Portland in my opinion is dangerous especially at night, especially near any protests/riots, Riots have also taken place in residential neighborhoods here in Portland they still continue with no end in sight. Currently it is my understanding that CCL permit holders are not allowed to carry a gun into most if not all court houses, and most if not all schools. Certainly at the airport one cannot carry a gun through security and in my opinion there is no need to prohibit citizens legally allowed to carry from having a gun while in the outer parts of the airport when picking up loved ones etc. To render those law abiding citizens felons subject to large fines and jail time is heavy handed and unnecessary.

I'm also concerned that those that would like to take away our second amendment freedoms would like to use this bill to start an ever increasing prohibition and restriction program, with the real agenda being the eventual total removal of all guns from law abiding citizens.

Gun laws in Oregon are sufficient as currently written; we do not need more gun laws restricting the activities of law abiding concealed carry license holders. I also think the \$50 fee for the license is fair raising it to \$100 to me seems like a way to "punish" again I say law abiding citizens and I'm opposed to that.

For these and for many other reasons I'm opposed to HB554,

Thank you,

David Hanning, Portland, OR