

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Committee Members,

I am a high school junior in Portland, Oregon, and I am writing in support of SB 554.

As a student, I am writing to you on behalf of many of my peers who feel unsafe in school and public spaces, especially now. The Charleston loophole has always been deadly, but it's likely gotten even worse during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is estimated that at least 585,000 background checks will have taken longer than three business days in 2020.

I strongly believe that SB 554 has the power to save the lives of Oregon students, and keep the communities in Oregon safe from gun violence.

Oregon needs to support us as we spend time in these public spaces, and pass SB 554 to improve the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,
Chase Kerman