

I wanted to testify during the meeting, however with only an 8 am meeting it was near impossible for me to make it. Cancelling sessions for testifying and posing so many challenges for people to let their voices be heard tarnishes the very fabric of this democracy. I'm a behavioral interventionist and my clients do not wait for me they need me to show up on time so 8 am testifying I'm sure is hard for not just me but many working class folks. As a behavioral interventionist I travel all over the Portland metro area. I have my concealed handgun license and I carry my self defense firearm with me in my car. There is no way I would be able to distinguish if I was within 500 feet of public buildings as I drive through the city. Restricting where we can carry our firearms is a violation of our freedom. We can't let the government make felons out of some of the most law abiding citizen. I carry a firearm because I am a young Asian American women who was raised in Eastern Oregon and feel that I need to take proactive steps to keep myself safe. Along with carrying a firearm I take self defense classes, and I carry pepper spray. I am trained in deescalating situations and I hope to always use the least lethal way to defend myself. I have had several negative interactions with homeless people on drugs around Portland. The first one I was shoved to the ground by a homeless person when I was walking to my car in downtown Portland. I called the police and an officer did not arrive for nearly 40 minutes. A few months ago there was a homeless man sleeping in our apartment stairwell out here in Orenco station. I opened the stairwell door and he was displaying signs of being highly intoxicated and he started screaming at me and he had a weapon. I did not once have the urge to use my firearm I knew to just calmly leave the situation and call the police. I have to say thank you to the Hillsboro police because they always respond immediately. I cannot say the same for Portland police. If the homeless man had decided to use his weapon I knew I would be able to defend myself. I also carry my firearm when I'm running alone in the evening with my dog. My firearm is there for me as a peace of mind. With all the horrible things that happen to women and the recent deadly attacks on Asian Americans it is even more crucial now than ever before to carry my firearm to protect my life and my families life. Also it is unclear as to why this bill is wanting to impose more fees on the average citizen for obtaining a CHL. It doesn't cost the state more money now to issue a CHL. CHL fees are mostly profit for the government. The person that took my CHL photo stated he was a volunteer not even a paid employee.