

Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher

My name is Joshua Todd. I come before you in opposition to Senate Bill 554. I have lived in states with restrictions similar to what are in this bill. So I know first hand the challenges that it poses. Law abiding citizens want to follow the law, those with a concealed handgun license are law abiding citizens. This proposed law makes it hard to know where you can and cannot carry which will cause law abiding citizens to be made into "criminals" for accidentally having a firearm some place they should not without even knowing it.

Criminals do not follow laws and pose a potential threat everywhere. This bill makes it harder for me to ensure the safety of my family and myself. The fact of the matter is that the police do not arrive until after a crime has been committed. While they do their best, I am unwilling to bet my family's safety on their response times. If more areas are made off limits to carrying a firearm, those areas now carry a higher risk for those I love.

On top of this, this bill wants to increase the cost of obtaining our Constitutionally protected rights. This means that many will be unable to afford the RIGHT to defend themselves and their families. This is simply unacceptable. I strongly oppose this bill and I urge you to ensure that it does not make it out of this committee. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Joshua Todd