

Chair Prozanski and Vice Chair Thatcher,

My name is Dennis Pust, a citizen of the great State of Oregon for over 30 years. I come before you in opposition to Senate bill 554. Not only is this bill a clear violation of our 2nd amendment rights as U.S. citizens, it primarily targets a select group of law abiding citizens while doing nothing to curb the gun violence of those who choose to carry weapons illegally and bring harm to our fellow citizens. Please consider the truth that It is not guns who kill people, people kill people! The fact is, the focus of bill 554 is clearly misguided! Its focus is on the 'good guys' who lawfully carry a concealed weapon often with the motivation to help protect their fellow citizens from those who would do them harm. There is no way this bill will curb gun violence. It is simply another step down the slippery slope of the liberal agenda of those who support government overreach and the desire to disarm American citizens of their right to lawfully bear arms. It will have no impact on the number of criminals who choose to carry a firearm illegally and bring harm to their fellow citizens.

I believe this bill will only serve to embolden the unlawful actions of gun violence. A significant deterrent to a perpetrator of gun violence is the likelihood that there are men and women in the public square who are armed, willing, and able, to protect themselves and their fellow citizens from violent attack. This bill is built upon the false assumption that if you take away the guns of law abiding citizens, thus having a lessor number of firearms in public places, it will result in less gun violence as a whole. What it does not take into consideration is the deterrent that those lawfully concealed weapons present to those who would otherwise bring harm. And why would those who govern be so intent upon stripping away this layer of protection provided to our fellow citizens. These lawfully concealed firearms provide family members, friends and fellow citizens a welcomed measure of protection. It is my opinion that we ought to view this right as a positive not a negative. It is unconscionable to strip both this right away and the measure of protection it provides while emboldening those who through their criminal behavior wish to bring harm upon us!

Bill 554 is not a good precedent, it strips away our 2nd amendment rights, it is built upon a false assumption and would be an egregious act toward the citizens of Oregon! For these reasons I beg you to please kill bill 554!

Thank you for your consideration.