

Chair Prozanski, Vice chair Thatcher and members of the Committee:

My name is Raymond Smith. I submit this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 554 and its accompanying amendments.

Regardless of intentions, it is clear that this Bill will result in two things. One, is to create felons out of law abiding citizens and two, is the erosion and infringement of Individual Rights. The U.S. Constitution, Article II, ...." the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed." Oregon State Constitution, Article I Section 27, " The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defense of themselves, and the State,"...

This past year the Nation watched as Antifa and Black Lives Matter groups perpetrated a sustained assault on the City of Portland for weeks. Federal buildings were attacked. State, County and City properties were attacked and destroyed. Private property and businesses were attacked and destroyed. People were attacked, assaulted, terrorized and killed. Police were attacked and assaulted. The Mayor of Portland and Governor Brown ignored this ongoing assault and protested the Federal Government sending Federal Marshals. The State Legislature as a Body Did Not make it clear to Governor Brown that it needed to end.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned complacency of Government Officials, the law abiding citizens remained law abiding citizens. Senate Bill 554 is an Unconscionable Act which aims to infringe upon the right of protection and self preservation of law abiding owners of firearms. The act of increasing the cost of a concealed handgun license by 100% and the renewal of said license by 50% is arguably in itself an infringement of rights as some may not be able to afford the right to bear arms.

United States Constitution, Article XIV, ..."nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Oregon State Constitution, Article I Section 20. "Equality of privileges and immunities of citizens." "No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges, or immunities, which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens."

Senate Bill 554, Section 3 Subsection (3) (g) and Section 4 Subsection (1) Violates Article XIV of the U.S. Constitution. This law criminalizes and denies citizens that are licensed to carry handguns equal protection of the law with another group of citizens.

Senate Bill 554, Section 3 Subsection (3) (g) and Section 4 Subsection (1) Violates Oregon State Constitution, Article I Section 20.

This law will grant privileges and immunities to this class of citizens; police and reserve officers, parole and probation officers, federal officers, honorably retired law enforcement officers, a person who is authorized by the officer or agency that controls the public building, and employees of the U.S.D.A.. This law will remove and deny the same privileges and immunities previously and lawfully granted to the rest of the citizens that are licensed to carry handguns.

Senate Bill 554 violates individual rights and the rule of law. I urge this committee to honor its fiduciary responsibility and uphold the Constitutions of the U.S. and Oregon and the rights of the law abiding citizens of Oregon by Rejecting Senate Bill 554 and all amendments in its entirety.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raymond Smith