

Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher

My name is Joseph Cusic. I come before you in opposition to Senate Bill 554 I am in the process of obtaining my concealed handgun license and do not see the logic in Senate Bill 554. It concerns me greatly that I have gone to all the trouble to become licensed and maintain that licensing for several years and still could end up incarcerated unless I am willing to go undefended into locations that are stated in SB554. I also feel navigating throughout the state on ordinary business could be tricky for us concealed license carriers if city, county, metropolitan service districts, port operating commercial airport, school districts, colleges or universities can choose to prohibit concealed handgun license holders from setting foot on these properties with their firearms. I feel that my firearm is much safer on my person that it is locked in my vehicle. I find that I am much safer with my firearm on my person that locked in my vehicle. As we all know if someone is intent on causing harm to others they are not going to be deterred because it is illegal to carry a gun in this or that location. Although I have never had to use my firearm in defense of my person and I hope I never have to. I feel much safer with my handgun at my side. I have great respect for the women and men in law enforcement and with the current state of Oregon and the US their job is not easy. The majority of personal attacks do not take place while law enforcement is at the location. These incidents happen in minutes. The difference between living or dying during an attack could be the difference of my handgun at my side or my handgun locked in the safe in my car or at home. Thank you