

Senate Bill 554 February 22, 2024

Dear Senate Committee Members,

I am writing to testify about SB 554. I am a law-abiding citizen. I have never been arrested. I am a student at our local community college, attending the Nursing Program.

Twice I have been the victim of a hit-and-run accident. Both times the perpetrator, a female elk, hit my vehicle and then ran away. We have deer and elk that roam our college campus. Under this proposed "adjacent" grounds section of this bill, if one of these animals disabled a car while someone was driving through the campus, they could be charged with a Class C felony if they were otherwise legally carrying a gun. I drive onto campus, put my gun into a lockbox under my seat, then go into class. This would also become a Class C felony. This puts an unreasonable burden on those law-abiding citizens who are exercising a right granted them under the 2nd Amendment.

As a student, I am subsisting on grants and loans due to the nature of the program where I am attending class, lab, or clinical exercises in a local hospital for 6 straight days every 3rd week. Raising the license fees for the concealed carry license is a financial burden that could well keep me from obtaining that license and therefore keep me from exercising my Constitutional right as an American citizen.

Living alone in a rural area, I have a concealed carry license. It is a choice that I enjoy having access to. I have had to stop to let a bear cross the road in front of me. I love to walk in our local forests, but there are dangers and self-defense is important to me.

For these reasons, I am asking you to vote no on SB 554.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Julie Caton