

Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher,

My name is Connie Dunham and I am submitting testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 554. This bill has serious implications for people who have lawfully acquired a concealed gun permit for the state. If individual owners of public buildings, or certain college campuses, or random state owned properties pass an ordinance precluding the carrying of any firearm, it becomes impossible for an individual to know if they will be in violation of the law if they carry onto that property. Yes, I imagine they will post signs. That in itself will be a nightmare. Signs would have to be posted at every entrance, at every corner of the property, specifically relating to concealed carry. Signs are not indestructible. You are setting individuals up to be prosecuted for accidentally violating this law. Not only that, criminals don't care. Criminals don't have a concealed carry permit. Criminals will go break laws wherever they want. The citizens who have a concealed carry permit have gone through firearms training and are citizens who potentially could defend the public in the case of a criminal shooter. If you look at historical records, tell me where there was a case of a person with a legitimate concealed carry permit who committed a crime with a firearm on a public building site. Compare that with criminals who have harmed or killed our citizens because they were the only ones armed in a confrontation. You would potentially make it illegal for a school teacher or principal to carry on school grounds to help protect students, even if they were authorized because you have no exceptions. This only complicates gun laws and does not help our public be safe. I do not feel this bill should move out of committee. Thank you.