

22 February 2021

Committee Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and distinguished members of the committee,

I submit this letter in support of SB 554, the bill to authorize disallowance of a defense concerning the concealed carry of guns in public buildings.

Recent events demonstrate an increasing tendency to embrace violence in public discourse. The ability of people to carry concealed weapons in public buildings is intimidating to free movement and free speech for all. I am concerned not only for my own safety but for the safety of the many people who work or appear regularly in those public spaces.

Security personnel in these public buildings are tasked with providing safety to people in these public buildings. The argument that people inside these spaces need guns to guarantee their own safety or to guarantee the safety of others is fallacious. More guns provide more opportunities for gun violence.

Please help make public spaces safer for all of us and for you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "H. Rebecca Callison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Helen Rebecca Callison

Springfield, OR 97477