

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Committee Members:

My name is Michael S Berry. I am submitting this written testimony to voice my opposition to 2021 Senate Bill 554.

The generally high level of performance of law enforcement agencies and the selflessness that characterizes the vast majority of people in the law enforcement profession should be recognized. However, it should be obvious that it is impractical if not unwise to attempt to delegate 100% of the responsibility for people's physical security to law enforcement or other professional security providers. Perhaps there are exceptions where the ratio of security professionals to the helpless protected individuals is high. Indeed, there may be some environments where such protection can be achieved at reasonable cost. But, let's be realistic here. The reality is that the responsibility for individual security and the security of entire communities in general falls at least partially upon the general public. Given pressures such as "Defund Police" and efforts to remove school resource officers, it appears that the requirement for individual responsibility will only increase before it decreases (if ever). Surely those (rare) locations where people congregate that are so well-funded that they can mandate the disarming of people on-site, yet still provide adequate protection from people with murderous intent can deal with uniform statewide Concealed Handgun Licenses (CHL) laws and regulations better than individuals can be expected to navigate hodge-podge regulations that might be fairly described as "felony traps".

This bill should not move out of this committee. Please kill this bill now. Let us focus any legislative efforts toward effective actions that address challenging issues with the goal of making life better for the citizenry.

Kudos to those who originally introduced this bill for NOT including the much-abused "emergency clause".
(Well, it looks like I spoke too soon. Shame on Senator Ginny Burdick for trying to add an "emergency clause". Reference: Amendment 2- link <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2021R1/Downloads/ProposedAmendment/18224> .)

Thank you.

Michael S. (Mike) Berry
Concerned resident of Oregon and citizen of U.S.