

While I don't have a CC license, I do have over 20 years experience in risk management. In that field, we well understand the truism that humans are just not all that good at assessing risk. That's why the Oregon Lottery rakes in the dough, but people are terrified of sharks. This particular bill is a classic example of poor risk assessment; about 10% of adults in this state have a concealed carry license, and they commit crimes at a very low rate compared to the general public, and even when compared to high integrity professions like law enforcement, educators, and attorneys. Just as an example, in 2016 there were a total of 19 felony arrests to cc licensees in this state. That's a rate of .00008; certainly not a high risk demographic. Contrast that with the recidivism rate for convicted felons in Oregon: 57% in the first 3 years after their release.

This is where I point out that some of the same sponsors of SB554 are also sponsoring bills to "reform" Measure 11 sentences; on one hand, they seek to punish low risk citizens with 5 years in prison, while providing a windfall bonus to high risk felons on the other. You can't make this stuff up; it's a new and innovative way to gaslight the people of this state.

So, I've given you some data, but I urge you...don't take my word for it. This information is available from the Oregon DOJ- have a staffer verify these statistics and you'll see that myself and others opposed this bill are not just making this up.

Now- life is a lot better if you go through it assuming positive intent on the part of those around you. So, with that in mind I will assume that the bill sponsors are, like me, genuinely passionate about public safety and crime prevention, but they just haven't taken the time to understand the facts. That said, I have say my trust in the positive intent behind this bill is a little shaken by the emergency clause that was tacked on at the last minute. Maybe it's not positive intent- maybe it's all part of an ideological crusade to dumb down discourse in our society and infringe on civil liberties.

Paul Furnari