

Date: February 22, 2021
To: Chair, Senator Floyd Prozanski
Vice Chair, Senator Kim Thatcher
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation
From: David Bell

Regarding: OPPOSITION to SB 554

There is only one sure way of eliminating gun violence in public buildings: metal detectors and armed guards at the entrance(s).

SB 554 will only disarm law-abiding citizens and do nothing to stop criminals.

I live in Marion County and I hold an Oregon concealed handgun license. I believe this bill is mean-spirited toward people like me and wrongheaded in general.

We CHL holders are law-abiding citizens. It has been shown that we, as a group, are convicted of felonies and misdemeanors at a much lower rate than even law enforcement officers—like six times lower!¹

If passed, we will try to obey this law because we are law-abiding. Evil people, on the other hand, will not be deterred by this law. In fact, this law will turn public places into soft targets that will attract these evil people to do their evil deeds.

A report based on three FBI studies shows that from the year 2000 to 2017, when armed citizens were present at active shooter events, they were successful in stopping the active shooter over 75% of the time and prevented deaths by another 18%. In no case did an armed civilian hurt an innocent bystander in the process.²

Also during that approximate time period 96.2% of mass public shootings took place in gun free zones.³ This bill will only create more dangerous gun free zones.

It will be next to impossible for us to keep track of what places around the state will be restricted. A sign posted somewhere on the premises or wording on an obscure web page won't solve the problem. Again, this is very mean-spirited.

The problem of violence in our society is not a gun problem or a knife problem; it's a problem of evil. I don't know how to get to the root of the problem of evil through legislation, but I am convinced that this bill will not deter evil. If anything, it will open opportunities for evil people to carry out their evil actions and put good citizens like myself in the vulnerable position of accidentally becoming felons.

So I urge you to please kill this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
David Bell

¹ See

<https://poseidon01.ssrn.com/delivery.php?ID=37807007407009709712010206908312207600907502208103608707808900006707800009112707800702101100600103910001910210700310609312409211604903908103502710511509306407403408308309501009506809112500411006909812706401007700600708900104070072083114114124117&EXT=pdf> and specifically page 15 and also <https://www.nationalreview.com/2017/01/new-york-times-concealed-handgun-crime-numbers-are-bogus/>.

² See details at <https://www.concealedcarry.com/news/armed-citizens-are-successful-95-of-the-time-at-active-shooter-events-fbi/>.

³ <https://crimeresearch.org/2018/06/more-misleading-information-from-bloombergs-everytown-for-gun-safety-on-guns-analysis-of-recent-mass-shootings/>. The data is contained in a spreadsheet at <https://crimeresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Response-sent-to-Snopes-latest-attack-gun-free-zones.xlsx>.