

Dear Chair Prozanski and Vice-Chair Thatcher,

I write in support of Senate Bill 554. In my professional capacity I am a professor of law at Willamette University, where I teach local government law, among other courses. Allowing cities and counties to control access to their own buildings and the conditions of entry thereto is a core part of the municipal and county home rule that the Oregon constitution establishes in Article XI, section 2, and Article VI, section 10. This bill would allow cities and counties to decide for themselves whether to permit or prohibit firearms, and to what extent, thereby repealing the preemption of this authority that occurred years earlier. Such an approach seems utterly consistent with the notion that "local elected officials know best," particularly with respect to how they operate and govern the facilities in which they work and in which key features of local democracy -- meetings, testimony from citizens, and votes by elected officials -- occur.

Sincerely,
Paul Diller
Wilsonville, Ore.