

Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

As a retired law enforcement officer, I understand the need for crime victims to have the ability to defend themselves, as well as the VALUE in having responsible, trained citizens equipped to protect others in an emergency. I therefore strongly oppose HB2007.

It has been extremely disheartening to watch out-of-touch legislators repeatedly vote to defund the police and reduce penalties for criminals while simultaneously reducing the ability of crime victims and law-abiding citizens to defend themselves. As you know, concealed carry permit holders commit crimes at a far lower rate than average citizens. Passing laws to punish the most law-abiding among us is counter-productive and reduces the ability to protect ourselves and others against violent criminals. Despite their best efforts, when seconds count police are minutes or more away. The reality is that WE ARE EACH OUR OWN FIRST RESPONDER.

In addition, this bill would allow individual jurisdictions to essentially enact their own gun laws, violating Oregon's preemption statute and making it confusing for lawful owners to drive through multiple jurisdictions within the state. Finally, the "adjacent grounds" language is concerning in that a CHL holder could inadvertently violate the law by simply dropping off a library book or performing other routine errands near a self-defense-free zone.

If you are serious about public safety, RESPECT YOUR LAW-ABIDING CONSTITUENTS, punish criminals and VOTE NO on HB2007! Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Lesley Roehr