



March 22, 2023

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Michael Smith. I am a resident of Multnomah County and currently serve as Chair of the Gun Owners Caucus of the Democratic Party of Oregon. I write today on behalf of the Gun Owners Caucus to express our opposition to HB 2007.

On March 3rd, the Caucus considered whether to support or oppose several bills before the State Legislature that pertain to firearms. Among these is HB 2007, allowing local and municipal districts to further restrict concealed carry. The vote to oppose this bill was unanimous.

The Platform of the Democratic Party of Oregon states as follows:

“We recognize that gun violence is a public health issue and therefore support evidence-based gun safety reforms that do not unduly inhibit the right to self-defense and legal carry of firearms.” - DPO Platform (2021) Article 5 Plank 17

We believe that this bill unduly inhibits the legal carrying of firearms.

We appreciate that there are some places where concealed carry should not be allowed, such as courts of law. Furthermore, the attempted insurrection of December 2020 made clear that firearms could no longer be permitted at the State Capitol. However, we believe that HB 2007 goes too far in restricting concealed carry, and has substantial Second Amendment and equity issues.

We believe that this bill would allow municipalities to ban concealed carry on public transit, sidewalks, streets, parks, and anywhere else that could be reasonably construed as “municipal property.” This is tantamount to allowing towns to ban concealed carry.

We also believe that it would allow school districts, courts, and other special districts, to ban concealed carry on sidewalks and commonly used streets adjacent to their buildings. This would lead to an impossible to navigate patchwork of areas where a concealed handgun license holder would commit several criminal offenses, for example, just riding the bus to the grocery store.

History tells us that enforcement of this bill would fall disproportionately on overpoliced communities such as the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities, and therefore, it is problematic to us from both an equity point of view and a gun owners' rights point of view.

Finally, we believe that this bill cannot be salvaged, and frankly, we predict that, should it become law, it will be stricken in the courts as a violation of *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*. We urge that it be scrapped entirely in favor of evidence-based gun policies, such as those represented in House Bills 2006 and 3513, and would have been presented in HB 3511 had this committee given it a hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Smith, Chair, DPO Gun Owners' Caucus