

Submitter: Keith LaHaie
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2007

Dear House Committee on Judiciary,

Please reject this damaging and clearly unconstitutional bill and make sure that it doesn't make it out of Committee.

Unsurprisingly, our soft-on-crime Legislature, who can't seem to solve any real crime problems, is again intent on making felons out of law abiding Oregon gun owners – but this time, you're focused on the most law abiding citizens of all – concealed handgun license (CHL) holders! Where is the evidence that CHL holders are committing any type of gun crime?

All that HB 2007 will accomplish will be to expand SB 554's already complex, confusing and overlapping net of inconsistent regulations. Seemingly by design, the result will be to ensnare innocent CHL holders, placing them in jeopardy of becoming instant felons. It will be impossible to know where one can or cannot legally carry. At the same time, it will put innocent people in danger through the creation of nebulous "Gun Free Zones" that will be ignored by criminals.

HB 2007 runs counter to Oregon's pre-emption statute, which is supposed to prevent the mine field that this bill will deliberately create! It is also in direct conflict with recent court rulings, including the US Supreme Court's Bruen decision.

Dangerous criminals are being turned out of our jails and prisons, and our street are flooded with the mentally ill and drug addicted, which further endangers the population. So in response, you continue to make it more difficult for law-abiding citizens to exercise their Second Amendment right to self-protection? This bill, coupled with the many others currently on the docket in this Legislative session make it clear that our state's political class wants the law abiding disarmed and unable to protect themselves from the real crime epidemic in this state. "Death by a thousand cuts," that's for sure.

Supporters of this measure seem to think that HB 2007 will "make them safer" when conducting business in a public building. How so? They espouse an irrational fear of those carrying concealed, when the real threat is those who will ignore this law, or any other laws made with the objective of making people "feel safe." Will this bill do anything to deter a criminal from entering a public building with violent intent? Of course not! However, it will prohibit CHL holders – the very people who any sensible person would want near them in case of a violent attack by a gun-toting criminal –

from carrying the tool that could be used to preempt that violence.

Testimony provided by the Mayor of Bend shows that even she is not clear on the real threat posed by those who use guns unlawfully, nor does she have any idea exactly what this and other bills will or won't do to mitigate that threat. As with nearly all of the gun bills moving through the Legislature, their support is based on "feelings," not on facts and law. HB 2007, if it does become law will be immediately challenged in the courts and will likely be overturned – at great expense to Oregon taxpayers. Does this effort represent responsible governance? I think not.

Bills such as HB 2007 are nothing more than pandering to a radical anti-gun constituency. How about excluding dangerous felons from public spaces, rather than making the law-abiding into felons?

Thank you.