

Submitter: Donna Bleiler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2640

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2640

A Class A violation in Oregon is the equivalent to a traffic violation. This enables criminals to commit crimes without serious consequences, putting Oregonians at a greater risk. It appears the lawyers introducing this bill think these crimes aren't worth their time, but don't stop to realize that stopping lesser crimes with consequences has a significant impact on their case load of major crimes.

This bill reduces the protection for enforcement by limiting aggravated harassment to spitting only when a communicable disease is the risk. Otherwise officers can be disrespected by spitting all they want.

Democrats and the Governor made safety a priority, is this their idea of safety?

The bill also "Provides that each firearm possessed by a person committing the crime of felon in possession of a firearm constitutes a separately punishable offense." For some time now the Oregon State Police have been enforcing a policy that is almost certainly illegal. They have been refusing to recognize court ordered right's restorations for people whose convictions have been expunged, set aside, or otherwise rendered removed by the courts.

For years it has been understood that these various court orders restored a person's rights to purchase and own firearms and they were free to lawfully claim they were not convicted felons. And for years, the State Police, obeying the obvious intentions of these right's restoration processes, approved firearm's purchases for those people.

However, one day, with no warning or explanation, the OSP Firearms Instant Check Unit invented a new interpretation of the law and claimed that people with these right's restorations were, in fact, convicted felons and could not purchase firearms. This bill will codify their misused interpretation into law.