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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB698

Wow, Senate Bill 698—what a masterpiece. I mean, who doesn't love a good old-fashioned government overreach dressed up as "public safety"? You've really outdone yourselves this time, taking a sledgehammer to the rights of law-abiding concealed handgun licensees (CHL holders) while pretending it's just a gentle nudge. Let's break this down, shall we?

So, your brilliant plan is to let every city council, county board, and random "municipal corporation" (whatever that means—sounds like a bad sci-fi villain) decide where CHL holders can't carry their legally permitted firearms. Public buildings? Schools? The Capitol? Airports? Sure, why not just slap a "Gun-Free Zone" sticker on everything and call it a day? Oh, and that cute little twist where the affirmative defense for CHL holders gets neutered—turning a felony into a Class A misdemeanor with a year in jail and a \$6,250 fine? Adorable. Nothing says "we trust you" like a slap in the face to people who've already jumped through your hoops to prove they're responsible.

Let's be real: this isn't about safety. If it were, you'd have data showing CHL holders are out here causing chaos in public buildings. Spoiler alert—you don't, because they aren't. These are the folks who've been background-checked, fingerprinted, and trained, yet you're treating them like ticking time bombs. Meanwhile, actual criminals—who don't bother with permits—will just keep doing what they do, laughing at your signs and policies. Genius.

And the vagueness? Chef's kiss. "Buildings and adjacent grounds" subject to some random policy? So, what, I'm a felon if I step on the wrong patch of grass? Do I need a map and a lawyer just to walk around Oregon now? This bill's a patchwork mess, begging for inconsistent enforcement and lawsuits. But hey, I'm sure you've got the taxpayer cash to burn on that.

Here's a wild idea: instead of punishing the law-abiding, maybe focus on the people who, you know, actually break laws? Nah, too simple. Why solve problems when you can flex your legislative muscle and make life harder for the good guys?

In short, SB 698 is a steaming pile of nonsense. It's anti-freedom, anti-common-sense, and anti-reality. Scrap it, burn it, bury it—pick your poison. Oregon deserves better than this garbage.