



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

April 7, 2025

To: [Senator Floyd Prozanski](#), Chair, [Senate Committee on Judiciary](#)

Re: [SB 698](#) – Change in public areas where CHL holders can possess a gun – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon strongly supports SB 698, based on our position that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic weapons is a major health and safety threat to our communities. We believe that firearms should be prohibited in certain sensitive public areas as a matter of public safety. During previous sessions, we have supported laws banning firearms, at specific locations, including the Oregon Capitol, Portland International Airport, and schools and universities that have made the decision to become “gun free zones”. SB 698 adds to the number of places where firearms may be prohibited, including for CHL (concealed handgun license) holders.

SB 698 allows the governing body of a city, county, district, or other type of “municipal corporation” to adopt a policy, ordinance, or regulation that prohibits firearms, even for holders of CHLs, “within buildings and on grounds adjacent to buildings owned by the governing body.” Signs must be posted at points of entry and a notice posted on appropriate websites.

We believe the reasons for including CHL holders in firearm prohibitions at certain locations are valid ones. Today 1 in 17 Oregonians has a CHL, which is approximately 325,000 adults. Live fire training is not required to obtain a CHL, since one can fulfill the educational requirement by completing the [Oregon State Sheriffs' Association \(OSSA\)](#) online CHL course, endorsed by Oregon's 36 sheriffs. During moments of crisis, such as a mass shooting, it is critically important for law enforcement members and security personnel to find and apprehend a shooter as quickly as possible. It makes their job more difficult and more dangerous if they are unable to distinguish between the general populace and a CHL holder who may be brandishing a firearm.

Above all, we concur with Justice Scalia’s words in the 2008 D.C. v Heller decision: the Second Amendment does not bestow an unlimited right to “keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose.”

We urge your support for SB 698 and thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Klein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Klein  
Acting President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marge Easley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marge Easley  
LWVOR Action Committee Member