

**State Representative  
Kim Thatcher  
House District 25**



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***Rep Thatcher Stands up for Concealed Handgun License Holders  
at Oregon's Public Colleges***

(Salem) State Representatives [Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg, St. Paul) and [Sal Esquivel](#) (R-Medford) today stood up for the rights of Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders throughout Oregon.

The representatives testified in support of [House Bill 3009](#) before the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee. HB 3009 states that an authorized person “has a right to possess a firearm in or on college or university grounds that may not be limited or impaired by the college or university or any body other than the Legislative Assembly, unless that body is expressly authorized to do so by state statute.”

Rep. Esquivel testified that Oregonians with CHLs have passed background checks and are responsible adults. He added that under the law, the granting of carrying authority should be done by the Legislature and not colleges.

Rep. Thatcher stated that legally, CHL holders have been able to carry on campuses for decades, a right granted under the state's 1969 public buildings statute. “Have these people created violent episodes on our campuses?” Thatcher said. “I can't think of a single case.”

Thatcher said that in downtown Portland, it can be difficult to determine the boundaries of the Portland State University campus, and expressed concerns about policies that could subject otherwise law-abiding citizens to criminal accusations.

As an example, Thatcher cited the case of a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Western Oregon University student who had a CHL but was suspended from school and arrested in 2009 for carrying a knife on campus and having a rifle in his pickup truck. The Polk County District Attorney's Office dropped all charges against the man.

The Oregon Court of Appeals ruled on that case in 2011, and determined that the Oregon University System's administrative rules regulating firearms was outside the bounds of state laws.

The passage of HB 3009 would prevent the university system from being vulnerable to lawsuits pertaining to those rights, she said, and would provide clear legal direction on these issues.

“Let's go after the bad guys, not the good guys,” Thatcher said.

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