

Chair Prozanski, Members of the Committee:

My name is Cheri Lovre. I'm the director of Crisis Management Institute in Salem. I've responded to school crises for 35 years including a dozen school shootings, most recently in Marysville WA.

When I am called in to help with recovery from a school shooting, I am working with people in despair. Parents so often say, "I sent my son off to school that morning and he never came back." Teachers ask, "How do I manage my class the first day back? I'll have three empty desks in second period. How do I cope?"

Eighty percent of the weapons used in mass casualty school shootings and suicides were brought from home or from the home of a relative. In all of the dozen shootings to which I've responded, the weapon came from the home.

Gun owning parents must learn that gun safes and trigger locks need to take the place of blind trust in the mental stability of their kids. **Please don't wait for the next tragedy - passing Senate Bill 945 will make Oregon homes and schools safer now.**

Fourteen months ago, a high school student in Bend walked into a mid-day class with a gun from home, dropped down on a knee and put the rifle to his chin and fired. The resulting trauma for his classmates consumed 50% of all four school counselors' time, and 80% of the school psychologist's for the remainder of the year.

I responded to the shooting at Thurston High, where Kip Kinkle killed his parents – both teachers – both solid and wonderful people – before going to school with a gun he brought from home, shooting 27 students, two fatally. Research tells us that students who are at the greatest risk of doing a school shooting are not bad kids with bad parents. They are distraught students with access to a weapon.

If we have another school shooting in Oregon, parents of those that die deserve the opportunity to come to ask you, "What did you do to help protect my child?" I hope you'll be able to look them in the eye and say that you passed Senate Bill 945.

Thank you.