

Chair Prozanski, members of the committee:

My name is Robert Yuille and I live in Portland.

- I have been before you this year to talk about the need to close the loopholes in the background check system.

- But I am here today to talk about another issue that is a very personal one to me - safe storage, and responsible gun ownership.

- Preventing the sale of guns to criminals and dangerous people is a critical part of preventing gun violence.

- But it is just as important that we expect gun owners to responsibly store a weapon so it can't fall into the wrong hands.

I know because my wife, Cindy, was taken from me after a gun was left unlocked in a closet where a visitor to the house gained easy access to it.

I believe that every household should be required to lock up your weapons. It is what I was taught growing up in rural Washington and it a principle I've practiced myself a gun owner.

But the question before you today is much simpler than that. It is: should gun owners be required to lock up their gun when a child could gain access to it.

I was also taught a child needs training and supervision to learn to handle a gun, indeed I can remember asking my older brothers to "let me shoot the gun", but was too young. No child, whether in his or her own home or the home of a friend, should be able to get unintended access to a gun. Sadly there are irresponsible gun owners who are reckless with guns.

Senate Bill 945 sets clear requirements for safe storage that will make Oregon children safer from gun violence. Please join me in supporting Senate Bill 945.