

Thank you Chairman Barker and committee members for allowing me to speak here today in support of HB 2526.

My name is Paul Kemp. I am a gun owner and have been a hunter most of my life. I am also a founding board member for Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership and on the advisory committee of the Oregon Coalition for Common Sense. I have also been a father for 25 years. I have always secured my guns when not in use, even before I was married and had children of my own.

I would like to share several safety tips from the NRA and gun manufacturers regarding securing firearms. Let's start with the NRA. On the NRA list of 12 safety tips taken from their website. Number 10 on that list is as follows: **Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.** They go on to say "Many factors must be considered when deciding where and how to store guns. A person's situation will be a major part of the consideration. Dozens of gun storage devices, as well as locking devices that attach to the gun are available. However, mechanical locking devices, like the mechanical safeties built into guns, can fail and should not be a substitute for safe gun handling...."

On the **Remington** website page listing the 10 Commandments of Firearm Safety, the 2nd Commandment is "**Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use**". They go on to state "Never let a loaded gun out of your sight or out of your hands. Unload it as soon as you are finished shooting". Further they state "Take special care if

there are children around. Kids are fascinated by guns. It's a natural curiosity that can have tragic consequences when not properly supervised. Store your firearms in a locked gun safe or some other location that physically bars a child from gaining access. Ammunition should be stored and locked in a location separate from your firearms. Never leave an unsecured firearm or ammunition in a closet, dresser drawer or under the bed. Remember, it is your responsibility to make sure that children and others unfamiliar with firearms cannot gain access to your firearms and ammunition."

From an article titled "**Glock Rewrites the Rules of Gun Safety**".

Rule 7: Store your gun properly. Guns placed in drawers, closets, desks, cabinets or other unlocked, accessible places are simply not secure. For proper storage always use a personal safe or a single gun lock box with a trigger lock placed on the firearm for an added layer of protection.

Each of the firearms I've purchased are sold with a trigger lock or some such locking device directly from the manufacturer. Trigger locks using either a key or combination, along with cable locks designed for guns and other simple locking mechanisms cost less than \$20 and many cost less than \$12 each.

We have laws now that require children under certain ages be in car seats, these laws have prevented thousands of car crash deaths and injuries to children. Even though it is common sense for the safety of your children that they be placed in a car seat, many parents choose

not to, often with tragic consequences. Despite safety recommendations from the gun manufacturers and even the NRA, parents still skip this basic gun safety practice, thus putting their own children and other children in harm's way. The safe and secure storage of guns also protects children and teens from acting on the impulse to commit suicide.

There are several information sources available for child access prevention that would provide parents with practical advice to protect their children in their own home. These Child Access Prevention materials will also provide suggestions for how parents can engage other parents to see if guns are properly stored to prevent child access. Placement of these informational brochures at the point of sale will save lives.

Additionally suicide prevention information at the point of sale will provide gun buyers with suicide prevention information and resources to seek help if they are considering suicide. If family members review this suicide prevention material they will learn some of the signs that someone is considering suicide. Thus they could potentially stop a suicide which is a permanent solution to what is often a temporary problem.

Passage of HB 2526 will provide common sense gun safety and suicide prevention information at the point of sale. The goal of providing this information at the point of sale will hopefully prompt a change of behavior for gun owners.