



Ceasefire Oregon

March 27, 2019

Senate Education Committee
Senator Rob Wagner, Chair
RE: Ceasefire Oregon opposes SB 801

Dear Senator Wagner and Committee Members,

Ceasefire Oregon supports evidence-based policies, legislation, and education that will reduce gun violence. Unfortunately, studies show that children do not retain safety skills when encountering a firearm in a real-world scenario. SB 801, therefore, is not likely to achieve its goal of reducing gun violence among children. While the goal of reducing gun violence among children is laudable, one of the best ways to reduce suicide and unintentional shooting in households with firearms is to securely store firearms and store ammunition separately.

Recent studies showed:

- Children who participate in gun safety programs often ignore what they learned when encountering a real firearm. (Rutgers School of Nursing study. Rutgers University. 2018, May 15)
- Gun safety programs do not prevent children from handling firearms: "Findings suggest that children do not retain safety skills when encountering a firearm in a real-world scenario." (Rutgers School of Nursing study. Rutgers University. 2018, May 15)
- "Existing programs are insufficient for teaching gun-safety skills to children. Programs that use active learning strategies (modeling, rehearsal, and feedback) are more effective for teaching gun-safety skills as assessed by supervised role plays but still failed to teach the children to use the skills outside the context of the training session." [Pediatrics, January 2004, VOLUME 113 / ISSUE 1](#), "An Evaluation of Two Procedures for Training Skills to Prevent Gun Play in Children" Michael B. Himle, Raymond G. Miltenberger, Brian J. Gatheridge, Christopher A. Flessner

Ceasefire Oregon cannot recommend using taxpayer money to fund an education program that has not been shown to be effective.

Please vote no on SB 801.

Thank you for your consideration.

Penny Okamoto
Executive Director
Ceasefire Oregon