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To: [SJUD Exhibits](#)
Subject: testimony r.e. SB 978
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My name is Dr. doreen dodgen-magee. I am a gun violence survivor and a psychologist practicing in Portland. 23 years ago my sister in law and three nieces, aged 5, 3, and 6 months were killed by gun in Oregon. My mother in law was shot but survived.

As a psychologist I have helped many individuals work through the trauma resulting from someone they love taking their own life with a gun. As a person active in working with those traumatized by gun violence I have walked alongside many people as they try to heal after mass and accidental shootings. Gun violence is a public health issue impacting more and more Americans personally every single day. In fact, Americans are 25 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than in any other developed country.

The impact of gun violence is not just on those directly threatened, harmed, or killed. It also impacts the cities, families, and, even, states where these occurrences take place. In the small Oregon town where my family was taken in a mass shooting, children and adults in the neighborhood still live with the trauma of having witnessed the event. Some of the children who had been in their first day of Kindergarten with my niece mere hours before her death, lived on the same street which quickly became a crime scene. In the same way, those family and community members who are present or respond to suicide by gun or accidental shootings have their lives turned upside down in a moment. The impact never goes away. It is important to be honest with ourselves that any of us can be impacted, at any time, by the ripples of trauma caused by the irresponsible, and sometimes, illegal, use of guns.

Senate Bill 978 has the power to significantly reduce many forms of gun violence. For those who might steal or otherwise use guns that are not their own for illegal use, as was the case in the Clackamas Town shooting, this Bill would have direct impact, keeping firearms securely stored where they are not easily taken.

For those considering suicide, having firearms securely stored could keep them from being accessed when the impulse strikes. This is important because research tells us that the majority of those who consider taking their lives often make the decision impulsively and do not make a second attempt when the first attempt is not completed.

Finally, 65% of accidental deaths by gun happen in the home or vehicle belonging to the victims family. Most of these incidents occur with guns that are legally owned but insecurely stored. Too many of these shootings involve children. As a person who had three young children taken by gun, I know the absolute horror of a child's body that has been struck by bullets. My family buried 3 of these bodies.

65% of gun owners in Oregon support requiring safe storage of firearms. It just makes sense! I urge you to protect the lives of Oregonians by passing SB978, requiring gun owners to store their guns safely.

dr. doreen dodgen-magee
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