

Good afternoon, Chair Williamson and members of the committee,

My name is Alexandria Goddard. I live in Washington County, and am a student activist. I was one of the organizers for March For Our Lives Portland, and I currently co-chair a group working of youth and minority education and representation in politics. I had hoped to be with you today, but I have class today and have to be in Portland. I would like to lend my support to HB 2505.

Oregon's greatest risk, when it comes to gun violence, is suicide. We have a rate of suicide nearly 20% higher than the national average. Trigger or cable locks could save the lives of those who want to hurt themselves. In the few moments it takes for someone to unlock and prepare a gun, they may change their minds. Their friends and family may have a few extra minutes to call the police.

Also, people looking to use their parent's or friend's guns to commit suicide. For those who are looking to hurt themselves with someone else's gun, a lock can save a life.

Domestic abuse is also a major problem when it comes to gun safety. Millions of women, children, and men across America live in fear of abuse. Adding a gun to any of those situations only intensifies that fear. A gun lock gives victims of abuse the extra minute it might take them to run to the neighbors' house, to call 911, to get away.

Finally, gun locks can prevent young children from picking up a gun and accidentally shooting friends or loved ones. We have had countless new stories featuring kids and accidental shootings. These instances scar the survivors and leave a hole in families that can never be filled.

These locks are a small ask and have the potential to save us from both unintentional and intentional shootings. Gun locks save lives and keeping guns secure does nothing to diminish ownership. Whether victims are battling suicide or an abusive situation, trigger locks can be the difference between life and death. I urge the committee to support HB 2505, and thank you.