



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

April 2, 2019

To: House Judiciary Committee
Rep. Jennifer Williamson, Chair

Re: **HB 2505** – Requires securing of firearm with trigger, cable lock or locked container –
Support

The League of Women Voters strongly supports proven strategies to prevent gun violence. Studies indicate that safe storage laws, such as HB 2505, are indeed effective. While no single law is the answer, we believe a comprehensive gun safety approach must include incentives for responsible gun ownership.

There will inevitably be arguments that HB 2505 infringes on rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment. However, the Supreme Court's Heller decision clarified that Second Amendment rights are not absolute, and that governments can set reasonable limits to benefit public safety. In the same way that it makes sense to pass laws to make our cars and highways safer, it makes sense to pass laws to make guns safer. When comparing motor vehicle deaths with gun deaths, the Violence Policy Center has this to say: "Motor vehicle deaths are on a steady decline nationwide, thanks to decades of applying proven public health-based injury prevention strategies to reduce death and injury. Meanwhile, gun deaths continue unabated. Guns remain the only consumer products not regulated for health and safety in the United States."

Unsecured firearms are a major public health issue with deadly repercussions. The Giffords Law Center estimates that over a half million guns are lost or stolen each year from private residences, and a 2018 study found that 4.6 million minors live in homes with at least one unsecured weapon. We believe it is not unreasonable to require the use of relatively inexpensive safety measures, such as trigger locks, cable locks, or locked containers, to prevent thieves, minors, and unauthorized individuals from gaining access to firearms. We also believe that the penalty and liability provisions in HB 2505 are not excessive and will act as a reasonable deterrent.

The League urges passage of HB 2505. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill".

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marge Easley".

Marge Easley
LWVOR Gun Safety Portfolio