



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 3329** – Relating to minimum age restrictions on firearm transfers – **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a longtime supporter of gun safety efforts in recognition of the fact that gun violence remains a public health crisis in our society today. HB 3329 provides an optional tool for those who sell, repair, or service firearms to restrict their customer base to those 21 or over. This creates an exemption to Oregon's anti-discrimination statute, but in our opinion this exemption is well-justified. We believe that businesses, particularly those who operate on a nation-wide basis, should be able to establish uniform restrictions in their efforts to promote gun safety.

Of particular concern is the high rate of suicide among teens in Oregon. Studies show that the ability to access a firearm increases the likelihood that suicide attempts result in death. Here are some key facts from ChildTrends.org about teen homicide, suicide, and firearm deaths in the United States:

- While homicide rates for 15- to 19-year-olds declined steadily from 1990 to 2013, rates have increased in recent years, from 7 to 9 per 100,000 teens, from 2013 to 2016.
- After declining from 11 per 100,000 in 1990 to 7 per 100,000 in 2007, suicide rates for 15- to 19-year-olds are again increasing, reaching 10 per 100,000 in 2016.
- The proportion of teens dying from firearms increased by nearly 30 percent from 2013 to 2016, from 10 to 13 per 100,000.

Males teens are particularly at risk, given that gun violence is the most common cause of death for young men. In fact, 30% of deaths in 2016 among young men ages 15-19 can be attributed to gun violence.

The League applauds businesses who decide to establish sensible policies to curb gun violence, and we urge you to vote yes on HB 3329.

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 "Marjorie Easley".

Marjorie Easley
LWVOR Gun Safety Portfolio