

Senate Chair Floyd Prozanski and Member of the Committee;

I write in full support of SB 978-1 and thank those of you who have fashioned a proposal that addresses the safe storage, school safety, purchaser age limitations, ghost guns and additional data reports. As a long term gun safety advocate, I am proud to see our legislature focus on proposals that will make Oregon a safer place to live.

Safe storage laws are absolutely necessary to reduce gun violence in Oregon. Over 50% of all suicides - often an impulsive act - are committed with a gun. Had a gun been unavailable, interventions may have had time to save lives. Children, many under the age of 6, are responsible for thousands of accidents and homicides because they get their little hands on an unlocked trigger. Had a careless fellow locked up the gun stolen murderer of Cindy Yuille and Steve Forsyth at Clackamas Town Center that horror may have never happened.

As a mother and grandmother, I applaud your proposal to give school districts, local governments and public agencies to regulate or prohibit firearms in public buildings. This local focus will allow urban areas like Portland to adopt laws that may not be the same as those in John Day.

People who make guns themselves (the so-called ghost guns) may legally bypass background checks and other state and federal regulations. Thanks for getting ahead of this nightmare with a proposed prohibition on their sale or possession.

Thank you too for adding to the statistics on gun violence in Oregon by requiring hospitals to report all firearm injuries to the Oregon Health Authority. The more we know the better you can fashion policy that directly addresses gun violence in Oregon.

Ann Barkley
S.W. Portland