

Everytown for Gun Safety/Moms Demand Action
Testimony in support of HB 4005
February 7, 2020

Chair Sanchez and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share written testimony in support of HB 4005. My name is Debbie Lindgren. I am a retired Oregon educator, parent and volunteer leader for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

The United States has become a nation of gun survivors, directly and indirectly. America's gun death rate is tragic and unique-11 times higher than other high-income countries.¹

- Gun violence is now the second leading cause of death for American children including Oregon.²
- Nearly 82% of gun deaths in Oregon are suicides, that is one every 22 hours.³
- Access to a gun triples the risk of death by suicide.⁴

These statistics highlight the critical need for HB 4005. The effects of gun violence extend far beyond these casualties as well. Gun violence shapes the lives of millions of Americans who witness it, know someone who was shot, or live in fear of the next shooting. However, it is simply too easy for the wrong individuals to get firearms, leading to violence from deadly domestic abuse to suicide and school shootings.

Research shows that common-sense public safety laws reduce gun violence and save lives. Don't wait until this public health crisis affects more Oregonians, even touching your families as it did mine. My eldest daughter works for a Fortune 500 company in Portland when she was confronted with a workplace shooting in 2017 ending the lives of two of her co-workers. I decided to get off the sidelines at that point and joined a non-partisan, grassroots organization advocating for stronger laws and policies that will reduce gun violence and make our communities safer.

I am grateful to support proposed legislative solutions to help address this public health crisis in Oregon by a secure storage bill. I hope you'll join me in getting off the sidelines and supporting HB 4005. Thank you.

Debbie Lindgren
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¹ Erin Grinshteyn and David Hemenway, "Violent Death Rates in the US Compared to Those of the Other High-Income Countries, 2015," *Preventive Medicine* 123 (June 2019): 20–26.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports. Data from 2017. Children and teenagers aged 1 to 19, Black defined as non-Hispanic, number of deaths by known intent (homicide, suicide, unintentional deaths). Age 0 to 1 calculated separately by the CDC because leading causes of death for newborns and infants are specific to the age group.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports. A yearly average was developed using five years of the most recent available data: 2013 to 2017.

⁴ Anglemyer A, Et Al. The Accessibility of Firearms and Risk for Suicide and Homicide Victimization Among Household Members: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Ann Intern Med.* 2014.