

Dear Chair Sanchez: I am sorry to miss tomorrow's hearing. This is what I would have said (below). Thank you, Lisa Reynolds MD

[SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF LISA REYNOLDS]

Testimony House Judiciary Cmte HB4005

Thank you chairperson Sanchez and the House Judiciary Committee for holding this hearing and inviting public testimony on HB4005.

My name is Lisa Reynolds. I'm a pediatrician, a mother and a board member for State of Safety Action.

I have been an advocate for gun violence prevention for years because I care about the health and safety of all Oregonians and of all Americans. As a physician and scientist, I know that gun violence constitutes a public health emergency. Any other mechanism that cost 35,000 Americans their lives while injuring several times that number, would be aggressively addressed and mitigated.

Fortunately, we *know* that there are steps we can take to reduce the toll of gun violence.

I want to speak today in support of the bill requiring the safe storage of guns.

Specifically, we know secured guns prevent their use by minors, thieves or other unauthorized people. Studies show states with safe storage laws have lower rates of accidental gun deaths and gun suicides.

In the US 100 kids a year under the age of 13 get ahold of a firearm to kill or injure themselves or others. 40% of these kids are under 3 years of age! Research shows that safe storage laws lowers unintentional gun injuries and deaths of children.

Two thirds of school shootings are committed by minors, most (80%) of whom use a gun taken from their home.

Furthermore, in 2017, firearm suicide took the lives of 14 Oregon children and teens. We know that if these kids had not had access to a gun, almost always gun in their own home, they would most likely be alive today. Indeed safe storage laws lead to a decrease in gun suicides and overall suicides.

(Suicide is an impulsive act - most people decide to kill themselves within 10 minutes of trying to doing so. If they have access to a gun, 85-90% die. If they do not have access to a gun and they try a different method of suicide, only 1-2% die. And of those who survive a suicide attempt, more than 90% do NOT go on to end their lives by suicide.)

Lastly, guns that are stolen have a much higher chance of being trafficked and/or used in a crime.

A child shoots his little sister by accident at home. A high school boy brings a gun to school and kills classmates and a teacher. Another high school boy commits suicide at home with his father's gun. A young man takes his buddy's unlocked loaded machine gun from the coffee table and kills two beloved members of our community at Clackamas Town Center.

These stories all happened in Oregon. Indeed they happen all over the country. But they could have been prevented had the gun owners, like MOST gun owners, locked their weapons.

We know this to be true. Studies show that when there are laws requiring guns to be locked there is a significant decrease in overall suicide and unintentional gun injuries.

www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/essays/what-science-tells-us-about-the-effects-of-gun-policies.html

(When Massachusetts passed a law requiring that all guns be locked when not in use, the number of teens who killed themselves with a gun declined dramatically. And, other states with safe storage legislation saw 68% fewer gun suicides than states without these laws. This translates to and overall 40% decrease in suicides in those states.)

Safe storage of firearms is the appropriate next step to address our gun violence public health emergency. It is supported by $\frac{2}{3}$ of Oregonians, including gun owners.

Oregon the time is now. Let's pass safe storage legislation in 2019!

Thank you.

<https://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/child-consumer-safety/safe-storage/>

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We can be free from gun violence!

Henry Wessinger, President

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