



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

February 7, 2020

Representative Tawna Sanchez, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
900 Court St, NE, Hearing Room E
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of HB 4005, establishing secure handling requirements for the transfer and storage of firearms. Safe storage of firearms is a public health and safety priority.

Gun violence poses a serious threat to the safety, livability, and health of our community. In 2018, Portland Police took report of 467 stolen firearms, with 168 of those being stolen from a vehicle. Safely securing firearms and limiting access through appropriate and legal restrictions will help curb the number of fatalities and serious injuries.

Oregon's suicide rate exceeds the national average. According to the Oregon Health Authority, in 2018 there were 519 firearm-related deaths in Oregon, with 68 of those occurring in Multnomah County. Of those firearm-related deaths, 427 were suicide by firearm in Oregon, and 50 of those occurred in Multnomah County. Securely storing firearms helps to limit access to minors and unauthorized individuals and is shown to lower suicide rates.

HB 4005 offers a common-sense solution to help stem the epidemic of tragic firearm-related deaths and injuries in our country and in our community. We urge your strong support.

Respectfully,

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner

Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner