



To: House Judiciary Committee

February 7, 2020

Chair Sanchez and members of the House Judiciary Committee;

## **Statement of support for HB 4005 safe storage of firearms**

**Oregon PTA strongly supports HB 4005; we believe that safe storage of firearms will save lives by preventing unauthorized access to firearms by minors in particular. The bill requires safe storage of firearms as well as supervision of minors when using firearms.**

Oregon PTA has over a 100 year history of advocating for children and youth. Our members are volunteers from across Oregon. We share a long commitment to child safety and prevention of accidents and injuries to all children in Oregon. HB 4005 and the language of ***Cindy Yuille and Steve Forsyth Act*** go a long way to helping keep children safe. HB 4005 will require the safe storage of guns and prompt reporting of lost or stolen guns to law enforcement. Similar laws in other states have reduced gun violence and made communities safer.

**Unauthorized access to guns presents a serious safety risk to children in Oregon. Firearms are a leading cause of death among children and teens.** Similarly we know the sad and too common stories of children gaining unauthorized access to guns and injuring themselves and others with the gun. This is particularly true with the impulsive suicide attempts with a gun which are brutally successful.

Responsible gun owners know that **storing firearms unloaded, locked and out of reach to children** is the best way to prevent unfortunate accidents, theft or even intentional harm resulting from accessing a firearm. Appropriate locks and storage containers are readily available and can provide safe and secure storage for any type of firearm. It is not asking too much to require safe storage and responsible ownership of all firearms.

HB 4005 describes how to keep firearms safely stored, calls on all firearms owners to know when and how they can more safely control access to their firearms with intent to avoid harm or misuse. HB 4005 requires firearm owners to responsibly control their firearms and what to do if they are lost or stolen. Civil strict liability attaches to anyone who violates the provisions of the bill and assures responsibility for any harm or damages resulting in failing to take the simple steps of safe storage.

Responsibility, safe storage, education and clear consequences for any failure to safely store firearms makes HB 4005 a bill which Oregon PTA believes will save lives and prevent unnecessary harm caused by firearms.

**Please vote YES on HB 4005 the Cindy Yuille and Steve Forsyth Act**

Otto Schell, Oregon PTA legislative director

