

I would have been in Salem today to submit this testimony in person, but sometimes personal healthcare issues arise. So with regrets I'm doing the second best thing I can do last minute, I'm sending written testimony.

I'm not writing to you today in my capacity as PTO President at one of the largest high schools in the state, but for the past six years, I have been inside Westview High School during lockdown drills, experienced situations where campus was closed due to credible threats. As a parent, I've been texted by my son from his classroom where kids were crying because of a credible threat, during a lock down. My son's football team had to flee from practice when there were shots fired on NW 185th, and nobody could reach their kids to make sure they were safe. Their cell phones were in their lockers. Thankfully one of their coaches is also a police officer.

One of the kids on that football team was shot by a fellow teenager, in his home. He survived only to tragically lose his life about a month ago after battling addiction. None of this should be normal!

At Parkrose, one of my son's former football camp coaches talked a student in to peacefully giving up a rifle he brought in to school to harm others. What if Coach Keanon Lowe wasn't there that day? A troubled youth would be in prison for life instead of getting the mental healthcare he needs. Others could be dead.

In Oregon, we fine drivers up to \$2,500 if they litter on the highway, because litter contributes to 350 traffic accidents, and accidents on the highway can lead to serious injury or death. But we don't require parents and all gun owners to safely store deadly weapons to prevent some of the 456 deaths by firearm per year. This is not a violation of anyone's rights to own and safely store and operate firearms, it's no different from fines if you drive drunk or throw trash out your window while driving. And the fine is low.

There are plenty of reasons to pass this law, there are zero rational reasons not to treat safe gun ownership at least as strongly as we fine people for making our roads less safe by littering or driving while intoxicated. Please do the right thing, make our state safer by making gun owners take the safe storage of their deadly weapons seriously.

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