



**Statement for the Record
House Health Care Committee
February 7, 2020
HB 4005 Firearm Safety and Injury Prevention**

Chair Sanchez and members of the committee, please accept this statement for the record on behalf of OR-ACEP, the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. OR-ACEP is a medical society that has represented physicians specializing in emergency medicine since 1971 and its members share a commitment to improve emergency healthcare for all Oregonians.

OR-ACEP supports HB 4005, a bill that requires safe gun storage in Oregon. As emergency physicians, we witness the devastating toll firearm injuries take on our patients each day across the state. We are on the front lines. We provide care for survivors, act swiftly to address life threatening blood loss and traumatic injury and when our best efforts fail, we console distraught families. This is our lane.

Firearm injury is the leading cause of death among young Americans, is the most common means of suicide death and has long lasting psychological ramifications for victims, their families and for those that take care of them. We urge your support of this and other initiatives that will protect our communities from gun violence and prevent senseless death and disability.

OR-ACEP supports public health and health care efforts that:

- Investigate the effect of social determinants of health and other cultural risk factors on patterns of firearm injury (eg, poverty, intimate partner violence, prior exposure to violence, the relationship between communities and law enforcement);
- Support a confidential national firearm injury research registry while encouraging states to establish a uniform approach to tracking and recording firearm-related injuries (eg, homicide, suicide, unintentional, self-defense, intimate partner violence, officer-involved, line-of-duty, etc.);

Chapter President- Michael McCaskill, MD FACEP

Chapter Executive- Liz Mesberg

President-Elect- Chris Strear, MD FACEP

Government Relations Director- Katy King



**Oregon Chapter
American College of
Emergency Physicians**

- Promote access to effective, affordable, and sustainable mental health services for emergency department patients with acute mental illness for whom access to a firearm poses a real risk to life for themselves or others;
- Provide health care providers with information on the most effective ways to counsel patients and families on proper firearm safety, emphasizing evidence-based methods that are shown to reduce intentional and unintentional injuries;
- Support research into public policies that may reduce the risk of all types of firearm-related injuries, including risk characteristics that might make a person more likely to engage in violent and/or suicidal behavior;
- Support community-based and hospital-based programs that would allow early intervention to prevent firearm-related injuries and their long-term consequences.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this statement for the record. We appreciate your leadership in taking this important step to keep our communities safe from gun violence.

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