

I vividly remember the day during my senior year of high school when we had a lockdown false alarm. It was a few days after the Parkland shooting, and despite being thousands of miles away from them, the fear that engulfed my body was as real as the one felt by Parkland students. That day, instead of solving problems in my Calculus class, I was brainstorming for ways to stay alive and what final message to send my loved ones. More importantly, with a younger sister at home and being so far from her, there is not a day that passed by without my worries for her safety going to school. That was when I knew I must continue the fight to end gun violence.

I decided that #EnoughIsEnough. That was when I fearlessly joined hands with other youth from Oregon to plan Portland's March For Our Lives. The experience gifted me a chance to speak to local political figures — Portland's Mayor Ted Wheeler, Governor Kate Brown, Representative Suzanne Bonamici, and Senator Ron Wyden — and to work with them on bills pushing for stronger gun safety policy. With the experience from working with these extraordinary elected officials, I have learned the importance of being a responsible gun owner.

The major cause of death for suicidal cases in Oregon is guns. People who are not in a stable state of mind are more likely to use a gun to harm themselves than any other methods in Oregon. This is why I believe HB 4005 is critical to protect those who are vulnerable to gun violence. We need to actively prevent gun violence from happening, and not wait until it is too late. This is why I urge you to vote in favor of this safe storage bill. We need to make sure that guns are used with the right purpose, by the right people, at the right time and place.