

We are testifying on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN), a coalition of Indivisible groups from across Oregon. Indivisible is a nationwide movement of thousands of volunteer-led local groups that engage in progressive advocacy and electoral work at the local, state and national level. The undersigned Indivisible groups and our coalition partners across Oregon urge you to support legislation that requires the secure storage of firearms. Securing firearms by storing them locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition saves lives by preventing access by children and by those who should not have firearms available to them. The number of lives saved by this practice should not be understated.

We know, on average, 100 Americans are shot and killed and 200 more people in our country are shot and wounded every single day. An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded and unlocked firearm on the premises. Between 2013-2017, on average, 28 children and teens in Oregon died by guns every year, and 69% of those deaths were from suicide by gun. Firearms are the 2nd leading cause of death among children and teens in Oregon. Research shows that blocking a loved one's access to the most lethal method of suicide can give a person in crisis the chance to get the help he or she needs.

We also know that in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 78% of shooters obtain the firearm from their home, a relative's home, or a friend's home. In addition, an estimated 200,000-500,000 firearms are stolen every year, contributing to more crime from illegally trafficked guns funneled into underground markets. Secure storage of firearms would reduce these dangerous and deadly situations in our communities.

There are many affordable secure storage options which still allow quick access when needed and still prevent access by children, people in a mental health crisis, and dangerous people who should not have access to guns. Secure storage will save lives and keep our communities safer, allowing us all to live free from fear of gun violence.

We strongly urge you to support secure firearm storage legislation in the 2020 Oregon legislative session.

Sincerely,

The following members of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network

Indivisible 97201  
Indivisible Cedar Mill  
Indivisible Progressive Yamhill  
Indivisible North Coast Oregon  
ORD2 Indivisible  
Rogue Indivisible (Grants Pass)  
The Dalles Progressives  
Florence Indivisible

Indivisible Bend  
Indivisible Eugene  
Indivisible Sisters  
Nasty Women Get Shit Done  
Protect Oregon's Progress (The Dalles)  
Rural Voices (Condon)  
The Vocal Seniority (Bend)  
Wallowa Action Group (Postcardia)

Indivisible Clackamas  
Indivisible Hillsboro  
Klamath Indivisible  
One Small Thing PDX  
Indivisible Columbia Gorge  
SW Portland Huddle  
Union County Progressives (La Grande)