

Dear Chair Sanchez and Judiciary Committee members:

I am writing to ask that you support HB 4005, which requires that guns are securely stored in homes or cars or the gun owner will face civil penalties (not criminal). There is a lot of misinformation about this bill. The purpose and the impact will be to protect children and teens. When children have access to loaded weapons, they can accidentally kill themselves, a loved one, or a friend. They obviously don't understand the dangers of a loaded gun and must be kept away from them at all costs. When teens are suicidal, and have access to a gun, they are almost surely going to be successful in their suicide attempt. Having a gun stored in a biometric safe or with a trigger lock can be the stumbling block that prevents them from accessing a gun. They are much less likely to complete the suicide with other attempts. People who survive a suicide attempt are unlikely to try again because they can access help. That is, unless they have access to a gun.

I appreciate your support for protecting Oregonians. Securely storing guns makes us all safer.

Thank you,

Amie Wexler

Oregonian in Rep. Tawna Sanchez's district