

Everytown For Gun Safety/Moms Demand Action
Testimony in support of HB 2510
March 11, 2021

Chair Prusak and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share written testimony in support of HB 2510. I am a retired Oregon educator, parent, and volunteer leader for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

The United States has become a nation of gun survivors, directly and indirectly. American's gun death rate is tragic and unique--11 times higher than other high-income countries.¹ One of [Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America's](#) top priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session is secure storage & disrupting dangerous access to firearms.

- Nearly 4.6 million U.S. children live in a household with at least one loaded, unlocked gun ²
- Nearly two-thirds of firearm deaths are suicides – over 23,000 Americans every year³
- On average, over 522 people are shot and killed with a gun every year in Oregon ⁴
- In Oregon, over 81% of gun deaths are suicides ⁵

Responsible Storage can make a difference. HB 2510 is **the Cindy Yuille and Steve Forsyth Storage Act**. It is in memory of the two victims from the Clackamas Town Center shooting in 2012, who were shot and killed with a stolen AR-15 left unsecured by its owners.

This bill requires an owner or possessor of a firearm to secure the firearm with a trigger or cable lock, in a locked container or in a gun room except in specified circumstances.

The bill also requires that a gun owner must report a lost or stolen gun within 72 hours of when the person discovers it missing.

Laws that require secure storage seek to encourage responsible behavior, not punish gun owners. This policy does not criminalize irresponsible storage, but rather, results in civil penalties for individuals who fail to responsibly store their firearms in an effort to prevent children, people with violent criminal histories, and those who are at risk of harming themselves or others from gaining access to a firearm.

This policy echoes the values of our [Be SMART campaign](#) and is a strong step forward in the fight to prevent gun violence in Oregon.

The debate around gun violence has evolved in recent years. We are discovering we can prevent many lives taken due to gun violence. We are glad so many people and groups are advocating for a safer Oregon.

I am grateful to support proposed legislative solutions to address this public health crisis by a secure storage bill. I hope you will join me in getting off the sidelines and supporting HB 2510. Thank you.

Debbie Lindgren
Lake Oswego, Oregon

1 Erin Grinshteyn and David Hemenway, "Violent Death Rates in the US Compared to Those of the Other High-Income Countries, 2015," *Preventive Medicine* 123 (June 2019): 20-26.

2 Azrael D, et al. Firearm storage in gun-owning households with children: Results of a 2015 national survey. *Journal of Urban health*, 2018.

3 [Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System](#) (WISQARS). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; 2018.

4 Moms Demand Action Press Release January 21, 2021

5 CDC, Fatal Injury Reports, five-year average: 2014-2018