

Dear House Committee on Health Care,

I am writing you in strong opposition of HB 2510. As a kids firearm safety expert, I have dedicated the past 6 years of my life to the education of children on the dangers of unsecured firearms inside of the home. I am the President and founder of the Kids S.A.F.E. Foundation. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Eugene. Since our founding we have reached over 21,000 kids in 4 states. It is our goal to empower them to make safe decisions if they ever encounter a firearm. It has been this professional experience that has lead me to voice my displeasure in HB 2510. While I do believe that secure storage is an important tool to the safety of children and the public. HB 2510 misses the mark. While I empathize to the loss of loved ones by the authors of this bill. Grief unfortunately does not equate to effective legislation in this case. We all want to save lives. Every loss is too many. What is important to realize here is how we cannot legislate morality and evil intent. This HB, while well intentioned, it is written with no working knowledge of what most law abiding citizens go through daily just to provide or protect their families. We are seeing an increase in violent crime, rampant drug use, homelessness, and further pressures on law enforcement capacity. HB 2510 is merely a tax and is unenforceable and is a complete overreach. Giving the OHA the ability to write policy on how Oregonians should store their firearms inside of their homes is not going to solve the issues that our state faces. A \$500 tax per firearm not properly stored within standards set forth by OHA is not going to do anything but put further demand on our law enforcement.

How would it even be enforced?

Is there going to be a tip line established so neighbors or family could report them anonymously?

Is Law Enforcement going to be required to obtain a search warrant before lawfully entering a private residence to do a firearms check?

These are just a few questions that I have from studying HB 2510. It's in my opinion that this will take important resources from those that need them and could open the State of Oregon for litigation. This is a bad bill, plain and simple. What I do recommend is that we educate our children and parents about the need of importance of secure storage, but we do not need a misguided mandate. This will have ZERO impact on the safety of our citizens. There is no scientific data that will support this Bills intended concept and that it will be a value to the public. It is my belief that education is a more viable option for kids and parents alike. We should be normalizing gun ownership, the use of secure storage, and educating our children. We shouldn't be demonizing law abiding citizens but encouraging responsible behavior. HB 2510 will have a negative impact on this. I encourage the committee to be strong and do what's best for all citizens, not just the ones that use fear and emotion to effect policy. Vote NO on HB 2510!

Thank you,  
Derek LeBlanc  
President, Kids S.A.F.E. Foundation

<https://kidssafefoundation.org/>