

In Oregon, firearms were the leading cause of death among our children and teens in 2018. Annually in the US nearly 350 children unintentionally shoot themselves or others. 70 percent of these incidents happen inside a home.

How does this happen? 4.6 million children in the US live in a home with at least one unlocked and loaded firearm. Unsecured firearms also fuel gun violence outside the home. In school grounds incidents almost 80 percent of shooters under 18 obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends.

What is the first step in saving these children? An estimated 75 percent of youth suicides and unintentional gun deaths can be prevented by secure gun storage. This is a critical and worsening public health problem that demands our attention.

Passing HB2510 is the place to start.

Thank you for your consideration.

We are Oregonians who want a safer future for our children,  
Brant and Wendy Mellor