

My name is Mary Chaffin, I live in Sisters, in Deschutes County, OR. I've lived in Oregon for 35 years and was married and raised two sons here. I am originally from Georgia where gun ownership is very common. I support HB 2510, which would require gun owners to store their firearms securely.

I am writing not just on behalf of myself but also on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN), an association of over 40 Indivisible groups representing thousands of activists across the state, from the Coast, to the Gorge, the Valley, the Portland metro area, and Central, Southern, and Eastern Oregon.

We support this bill because it will prevent needless, pointless, tragic deaths. We know that millions of responsible gun owners follow recommended secure storage practices. This bill will codify these practices and require all gun owners to adhere to them. We support this bill because **more than half of gun owners actually do not lock their guns.**

Keeping guns safely locked away when not in use is just common sense and must become the norm and the law.

- It will prevent guns from killing our children.
 - In Oregon, firearms are the second-leading cause of death in children and teens.
 - Nationwide, nearly 350 children under the age of 18, roughly one per day, unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else each year. 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home.
 - Around 700 children die by gun suicide each year. Many of these suicide victims use guns belonging to a family member.
 - A [2019 study](#) estimated that one-third of youth gun suicides and unintentional deaths could be prevented – **saving an estimated 251 lives in a single year** -- if half of the households with children switched from leaving their guns unlocked to responsibly and securely storing them.
- It will prevent guns from causing injuries and deaths outside home.
 - Up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 who commit acts of gun violence at school obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends.
 - If we had had a secure storage bill in place, the tragic shooting deaths at the Clackamas Town Center in 2012 could have been prevented.

Common-sense policies like secure firearm storage work. HB 2510 represents a fair balancing of the rights of gun owners with the rights of society to avoid the tragedy of preventable deaths caused by firearms. Immediate action is needed to stop this unnecessary scourge. Please vote yes on HB 2510.

Mary Chaffin, on behalf of

