



Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

HB 2510 Support

March 11, 2021

Chair Prusak, Vice Chair Hayden, Vice Chair Salinas and Members of the Committee

566-gun related deaths in Oregon in 2019 according to data from the CDC, National Center for Health Statistics. The rate of gun deaths per 100,000 is 11.7. That is just shy of the opioid related deaths at 12.6. And we hear much about gun violence in Chicago. Our Oregon rate is higher than the state of Illinois (10.8 per 100,000).

Safe Storage of guns would help those statistics, but more importantly it would save lives in Oregon.

Much is said about gun "rights". But with "rights" comes responsibilities. Providing safe storage for guns is such a responsibility.

A 2018 study published in the journal *Pediatrics* concludes that millions of U.S. children live in homes in which firearms are left loaded, unlocked or both.

"Many families who own firearms do not think about the danger they can pose to children. However, the reality is that kids are curious by nature and are not injury proof," says Ben Hoffman, M.D., medical director of the Tom Sargent Safety Center at OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital and professor of pediatrics in the OHSU School of Medicine. "Parents and caregivers need to work to eliminate hazards and threats from the places where kids and youth spend time and have access. Placing dangerous items in a drawer or on high shelf isn't enough. Firearms - as well as medications, household cleaners and other toxic substances -- must be safely locked away to help mitigate preventable disaster."

A full report of the data review conducted by the OHSU team recently published in the *Journal of the National Medical Association*.

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition urges passage of HB 2510.

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