

I am writing to urge you to pass HB 2510. Secure storage of firearms saves lives. According to Everytown Research, 82% of gun deaths in Oregon are suicide. In Deschutes County, the County Suicide Data Report that covered years 2000-2017 shows that the youth suicide rate nearly doubled in that that. Experts expect mental health crises and suicides to increase due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, too many gun owners do not store their firearms securely. It's estimated that over 4.5 million children live in homes with an unsecured firearm (Everytown Research). That number is likely much higher since gun sales have skyrocketed since the pandemic began over a year ago. My family owns guns and stores them responsibly. I am a gun violence survivor and know first-hand the horror and anguish that comes from firearm deaths. Too many of us have suffered from the public health crisis of gun violence. Prevention is key! HB 2510 is a life-saving measure that will prevent firearm injuries and death. Please, please pass HB 2510.