

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing as member of a rural, gun owning family, in support of SB 554 including the amendments regarding secure firearm storage, if added. Local entities such as school districts and city and county governments should not be prohibited from regulating fire arms in their buildings.

Additionally, unauthorized access to firearms is a major source of gun violence. Requiring secure firearm storage is just common sense. Research suggests that secure storage laws can help reduce gun violence, including gun suicide, particularly among youth. Gun deaths are the second leading cause of death for youth and teens in Oregon and 68% of those are suicides. We need to protect our children by ensuring that gun owners store their guns responsibly. I urge you to vote yes on SB 554 and any amendments that require firearm storage here in Oregon.

Thank you.