

I urge Oregon lawmakers to pass SB 554. Gun violence is a public health crisis that is ripping apart families and communities in Oregon. I am a gun violence survivor and a life-long Oregonian who grew up around guns. My family owns guns and we securely store them in our home. Safe storage saves lives. According to Everytown Research, over 81% of firearm deaths in Oregon are firearm suicides. Experts predict an increase in mental health crises due to the pandemic. Gun sales have skyrocketed during the pandemic. Legislation to require secure storage will undoubtedly save lives, as will allowing local entities to establish rules for guns on public properties such as schools and colleges. Allowing these rules to be created at the local level is important because the staff understands dynamics of their community and how to protect students from gun violence. The data is clear. More guns do not make communities safer. Oregonians like me are suffering from the trauma of gun violence that can be prevented with SB 554. Please pass this important, life saving legislation.