

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

As a mother and a gun safety advocate, I urge you to vote in support of SB 554.

SB 554 will help keep guns out of schools and off college campuses and will empower local officials to make the public safety decisions that are best for their communities.

Current Oregon law forces schools, colleges, and local government buildings to allow guns.

Research shows that policies that force colleges to allow guns on campuses are likely to lead to more shootings, homicides, and suicides, and that they're unlikely to prevent mass

shootings on campus. Research also strongly supports the idea that if guns are carried into schools, children are more likely to access those guns.

With the rise in anti-democratic extremism, we need to make sure local officials have the tools they need to protect public safety. SB 554 will help keep guns out of schools, off college campuses, and help give local officials the tools they need to protect buildings essential to the functioning of government.

Thank you,
Megan Rutherford