



Feb 2, 2023

Members of the House Judiciary Committee
Oregon State House of Representatives
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 2676 (Kropf) – SUPPORT

Chair Kropf and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, and Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America in support of HB 2676, which improves access to financial resources available to victims of violent crime in Oregon. This bill would remove barriers that prevent many crime survivors from receiving assistance.

Oregon's victim compensation program was designed to provide survivors of violent crime help covering critical expenses, including counseling, funeral costs, and lost earnings resulting from the crime. But too many survivors who need this support are not able to access it.

This bill lifts the stringent 72-hour notification requirement and instead gives victims a reasonable amount of time to notify law enforcement about a crime and still remain eligible for victims' compensation. This change recognizes that people experience life-altering trauma when they are a victim of gun violence and may not think to report right away.

Given that guns are now the leading cause of death for children and teens in our country, supporting parents in this epidemic is crucial. HB 2676 will allow the parents of a minor crime victim to be compensated for lost wages and any prescription medication associated with trauma and grief counseling.

Finally, this bill allows friends who discover the corpse of a victim, or witnesses to the death of a crime victim, to apply for victims' compensation. Gun violence traumatizes entire communities, and often groups of friends, and so we applaud the state for making the compensation program responsive and accessible to a growing class of people in the wake of deadly shootings.

For these reasons, we support HB 2676, and thank you for your work on this bill.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sumadi
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