

Submitter: Bethany Wofford  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB551

I am a parent of an elementary school age child, and I have firearms in my home, unloaded, in a safe. Even though I grew up in Texas, and I know many responsible gun owners and hunters, I have also seen the finality of gun violence firsthand. I lost my cousin to gun homicide. He was at a party, and someone who was intoxicated and angry went into their bedroom and grabbed a gun and attempted to shoot everyone at the party. My cousin stopped him, but lost his life. If that person had kept their gun locked and unloaded, the barriers to fast, unthinking action could have prevented this tragedy. I believe that schools are a trusted source of information for parents, and that everyone would benefit from receiving educational information about the need for secure storage of firearms and medications (including cannabis candy). It would serve to remind parents not only to secure these items in their own homes if they have them, but to ask about secure storage at the homes their children spend time in. The number of children bringing firearms to school should be zero, and secure storage is a common sense way to prevent unintentional shootings. I live in the real world, and I know that people will always have their weapons, and their drugs. There is no logical argument that precludes us as a society from asking people to take reasonable commonsense measures to secure firearms and medication to protect the vulnerable. In this case, all we would be doing is having schools provide information which is frankly the least we can do. Please support this measure and provide Oregonians with life-saving information.