

Submitter: Jen Barth
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB551

RE: Support For SB 551
Senate Committee on Education
March 8, 2023

Hello members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Jen Barth and I'm a resident of Portland, OR, and I'm writing to testify in strong support of SB 551; I believe our school districts can play a key role in promoting safer communities by providing information related to the secure storage of medications and firearms.

As the parent of two children who entered school shortly after Sandy Hook, I know I'm not alone in the fear that faces each of us around both the gun violence epidemic itself and the impact that living in this fear is having on all of our kids. I've also experienced through both family members and friends the pain and heartbreak that can come from kids getting access to medication they aren't meant to have.

As the family member and close friend of many teachers, and a longtime school and community education volunteer, I've seen firsthand how hard our beloved school administrators and teachers have been working to keep their school communities safe despite limited resources and many roadblocks— and how much our kids count on them to do so.

While there are unfortunately many things that school leaders can't control, empowering them to be the conduit of critical safety information with families who see them as a trusted resource is a simple and powerful step we can take by passing SB 551.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jen Barth