

Submitter: Kristin Points
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB551

I'm writing to today express my strong support for SB 551, which will require Oregon school districts to publish information about secure storage of firearms and prescription drugs on their websites and distribute it to families twice a year.

I'm the mother of two school-aged children in Central Oregon. Families in our community need access to tools and resources that will help them make informed decisions about important health and safety matters. Providing parents with information on secure storage will only benefit our children and create safer homes.

We know that firearms are the leading cause of death of American children and teens. Each year nearly 350 children unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else with an unsecured gun. And almost 600 children die of firearm suicide each year, with the majority using a family member's gun. We know that three quarters of school shooters under the age of 18 got their gun from their home, the home of a relative, or friend. We also know that these deaths are avoidable by restricting access to firearms.

It is our responsibility to keep our kids safe and guns out of their hands. Studies have found that households that locked both firearms and ammunition experienced 78% lower risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and an 85% lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens, compared to those that locked neither.

Please support this life-saving bill and give Oregon's families access to the information they need to keep their children safe.