

Submitter: Roby Lanford  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB551

To Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I am a wife and proud mom of two teenagers who attend public high schools in Oregon. I strongly support SB551 as I don't believe that all parents have a full understanding of how important it is to safely store firearms and that by doing so, they quite literally could be saving a life.

Kids are naturally curious. They will not necessarily ignore a gun stored in a drawer because their parents tell them it's not safe to play with. In fact, almost 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. Approximately 77 percent of these incidents take place inside a home.

Teenagers tend to feel they are invincible and can be impulsive. I personally have witnessed how quickly a teen's state of mind can rapidly spiral downward when experiencing a mental health crisis. With nearly 600 children dying by gun suicide each year, most often from using a firearm belonging to a family member, it is imperative that guns are stored unloaded and securely.

Thank you.