

Submitter: Sylvia Banks  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2006

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Wallan and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to ask you to support HB 2006, raising the minimum age to purchase and possess most firearms from 18 to 21.

Following the death of my grandson, Micheal from suicide by gun, I have been an advocate for stronger, common-sense laws. Micheal was only 10 years old when he took his life with a gun that was meant to protect his family. At 10 years old, Micheal could not have understood the consequences of his actions.

It is a well known fact that the pre-frontal cortex, the decision-making part of the brain is not fully mature until a person is in their mid 20s. Certainly, it is not fully developed at 18 years of age. Research shows that children between the age of 18 and 20 commit homicides 3 times more often than adults 21 and older. A majority of the horrific school shootings are perpetrated by young men under the age of 21, using assault weapons or semi-automatic rifles.

In Oregon, children between the age of 18 and 20 are not legally allowed to drink or even own a handgun, but are legally allowed to possess semi-automatic and assault rifles. The legal age to purchase a handgun in the country is 21. It makes no sense that 18 to 20-year olds are allowed to purchase and possess assault rifles and semi-automatic weapons. Raising the minimum age to purchase most firearms is a common sense public safety measure that will keep save lives and keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of those who shouldn't have them.

Thank you,  
Sylvia Banks