

Submitter: Sylvia Banks
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2005

Dear Chairman Kropf, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Sylvia Banks. I live in Albany and I am a volunteer with Moms Demand Action.

I joined Moms Demand Action and became a passionate advocate for gun violence prevention following the death of my dear, sweet grandson, Micheal. Micheal died by suicide nearly 7 years ago at the age of 10, and the lives of all who loved him have been forever altered.

Micheal was a bright, caring, compassionate kid. He loved sports, especially baseball and basketball, and was really good at them. He also loved tractors. Nothing would ever lead anyone to believe he was a suicide risk, but he took his own life with a gun that was stored in the top of his parents closet, loaded and ready to protect his family in case of an intruder. The real danger to the family came from that loaded gun, not from some unknown potential intruder.

Nothing can bring our sweet Micheal back, but I can lift my voice in the effort to prevent unnecessary deaths from happening in the future.

I am asking you to vote in favor of HB 2005. I am very concerned about the proliferation of undetectable, untraceable ghost guns. They are proliferating at an alarming rate, including here in Oregon. Just recently here in Salem, there was a raid by federal officials who found 68 ghost guns plus a number of parts and pieces to make more in a person's basement.

These Ghost Guns present a serious threat to public safety in Oregon. Many of these guns land in the hands of people who should not have them, such as people with dangerous histories who cannot legally purchase firearms. They can avoid background checks and other state and federal regulations.

These guns can be made from kits of parts that don't have serial numbers. They can even be made out of plastics using 3-D printers, so that they are not detectable by metal detectors. Without serial numbers, it makes it impossible for law enforcement to link them to particular crimes. If unserialized guns are recovered at a crime scene, the criminal investigations are thwarted even before they start.

Far too many people are losing their lives to gun violence in this country. In Oregon, more than 580 people die each year. We need to do more to curb the epidemic of

gun violence. Please join me in supporting common gun legislation by voting for HB2005.

Thank you,
Sylvia Banks