

Submitter: Ashley Gartland  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2006

March 21st, 2023

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon State House of Representatives  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HOUSE BILL 2006 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Wallen, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Ashley Gartland and I am a retired small business owner, mother to two young girls and resident of Southwest Portland. I am writing to voice my support for HB 2006, which would raise the age for purchase and possession of a semiautomatic firearm to 21 years old.

As you know, under current law, we allow 18-to-20-year-olds to purchase assault weapons and other semi-automatic rifles even though they cannot legally purchase handguns. This is problematic given that research shows that the 18-to-20 year old demographic commits gun homicides at a rate nearly 3 times greater than adults 21-and-over.

This statistic alone highlights the critical need for this bill, as does the tragic increase in gun deaths across the nation and in Oregon. Simple, logical laws like HB 2006 can help make our state and communities safer places and create a culture that advocates for responsible gun ownership and gun safety.

I am grateful to your committee for considering gun violence safety measures such as these that will keep more Oregonians safe from gun violence. In addition to HB 2006, I urge you to support HB 2005 banning ghost guns and other untraceable firearms, and Bill HB 2007 which would allow cities and municipalities to ban concealed carry weapons in city and county public buildings and other spaces.

Please advance this Bill out of committee and continue to support it until it becomes law. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Gartland  
Portland, Oregon