

Submitter: Talia Wexler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2006

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Walan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Talia Wexler and I have been a volunteer with Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America since I was in 8th grade. I am now a senior at Grant High School in Portland. I have testified in support of gun violence prevention bills numerous times, in front of the Oregon House and Senate. I have seen bills signed into law and others die in committee. I am proud to be a part of the movement to end gun violence in Oregon.

I am especially pleased to be here today testifying in support of HB 2006, which would raise the minimum age to purchase a semi-automatic rifle from 18 to 21 in the state. It is astonishing that my peers and I could purchase an AR-15 or similar style weapon at age 18, just seniors in high school, and yet we cannot purchase alcohol, marijuana, rent a car, or even buy cigarettes. We are considered too young to make these decisions that can have lifelong ramifications and yet we can purchase a weapon that shoots high-velocity bullets that can cause mass death or irreparable damage.

We know that each round from an assault weapon inflicts greater damage to the human body than a round from a typical handgun.. We know that 18-20 year-olds commit gun homicides at a rate three times higher than adults over 21. We know that Oregonians support regulating high capacity magazines because we passed Measure 114.

It is time for this body to act to raise the minimum purchase age.

Many of my classmates and I are planning to head off to college in the fall. Many of us are heading to Oregon Universities and community colleges. Knowing that my college peers are unable to purchase a civilian equivalent of a military weapon will cause all of us to rest a little easier. Please pass HB 2006 and protect all Oregonians from the potential for another twenty year old purchasing a highly lethal weapon and using it against innocent people. Like in Uvalde, where the shooter was 18 years old, like Bend, where the shooter was 20, like Parkland, Florida, where the shooter was 19.

Thank you for protecting Oregonians and thank you for this opportunity to testify.