

Submitter: Brandy Steelhammer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2005

Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

As a mom, social worker, and life-long Oregonian who has lost 5 loved ones to gun violence (all Oregonians), I am writing to urge your support of HB 2005, which would prohibit the sale, possession or manufacture of guns without a serial number, including 3-D printed guns. Firearms without a serial number are a significant danger to society. Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens (https://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/od/directors_corner/prev_updates/gun-violence-July2022). Allowing the sale, possession, and manufacture of guns that cannot be traced will endanger our children's lives even more. Felons and people with dangerous behaviors can bypass accountability, which makes our communities less safe.

Currently, the US has an estimated 466 million guns in circulation, which equals 120 firearms for every 100 citizens (<https://americangunfacts.com/gun-ownership-statistics/>). The US is already struggling to contain gun violence. Law enforcement needs help from lawmakers to ban ghost guns, which can be obtained without a background check. Worse, the 3-D printed guns can bypass metal detectors, which puts all of us at more risk. In May of 2022, the ATF said the number of privately made firearms they traced had increased by 1,000% between 2016 and 2021 (www.opb.org).

Please help Oregon families and law enforcement by passing HB 2005. As a gun violence survivor, I know too well the heartache and the breadth of trauma caused by firearm homicide and suicide. Our families and communities are counting on Oregon lawmakers to pass common sense gun safety measures like HB 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brandy Steelhammer, LCSW