



CITY OF BEND

March 22, 2023

LOCATION

710 NW Wall Street
Downtown Bend

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 431
Bend, OR 97709

PHONE

(541) 388-5505
Relay Users Dial 7-1-1

FAX

(541) 385-6676

WEB

bendoregon.gov

MAYOR

Melanie Kebler

MAYOR PRO TEM

Megan Perkins

CITY COUNCILORS

Anthony Broadman
Barb Campbell
Ariel Méndez
Megan Norris
Mike Riley

CITY MANAGER

Eric King

House Judiciary Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Anderson and Wallan, and members of the Committee,

I write on behalf of the Bend City Council to express our strong support for the package of common-sense gun safety measures being considered by the House Judiciary Committee. We support the passage of HB2005, HB2006, HB2007 because these bills will promote safety in our communities and in our public places.

Like too many communities across Oregon, Bend is no stranger to gun violence. In August of 2022, our community suffered the trauma and horror of a 20-year-old man with a rifle and a shotgun walking into a grocery store, firing hundreds of rounds, killing two innocent victims, and ultimately taking his own life. The rate of gun suicides in Bend and Deschutes County is growing at an alarming rate; a 2020-report showed that youth suicides have doubled in the last two decades, with the majority of youth suicide occurring by gun.

Banning 3D-printed guns and raising the minimum age to buy a gun are reasonable changes to our laws and will save lives. We also firmly believe that our public City buildings should be safe and welcoming for everyone, and that local communities, through their local leaders, should be allowed to choose whether to keep all guns out of public buildings.

We urge the Committee to move these three bills forward with a do-pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "MK", written over a white background.

Melanie Kebler
Mayor of Bend