

Submitter: Jill Punches
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2006

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of prohibiting those under 21 from purchasing semiautomatic assault rifles.

Currently, federal law prohibits those under 21 from purchasing a handgun. That is a positive step, but it is not enough, especially because a shocking new pattern in mass shootings has emerged in recent years- six of the nine deadliest shootings since 2018 2 were committed by individuals under the age of 21 who used an assault rifle.

Examples include:

- 2018 | Parkland, FL – 17 dead, 17 injured
- 2022 | Buffalo, NY – 10 dead, 3 injured
- 2022 | Uvalde, TX – 21 dead, 18 injured

Oregon is not immune. Last August, shoppers in a Bend Safeway were terrorized by a 20-year old who used a semi-automatic rifle that killed two people, including an employee who disarmed the gunman. Although I live in Portland, I happened to stop by that Safeway a few days before with my husband to pick up something for lunch the next day on our way to camp in the Cascades.

Young adults aged 18-20 commit gun homicides at a rate of three times higher than adults over 21. There is no simple explanation as to why but what we do know that there is one logical first step that we can take together. We know that raising the drinking age from 18 to 21 has saved lives.

Please support HB 2006 to tighten Oregon's gun law and raise the minimum age to 21 for the purchase of semiautomatic assault rifles. In addition, please support a ban on ghost guns and concealed weapons in public buildings and adjacent grounds.

Thank you,

Jill Punches