

Submitter: Penny Okamoto  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2006

Chair Kropf  
Oregon House of Representatives  
Judiciary Committee  
Re: Support HB 2006

Dear Chair Kropf,

Laws that prohibit unsupervised possession or purchase of firearms by children and young people can reduce harm among people under age 21.

Scientists have known since the publication of a 2004 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association that state laws raising the minimum legal age to purchase firearms to 21 years were associated with a nine percent decline in rates of firearm suicides among 18-to-20-year-olds. ( Daniel W. Webster, Jon S. Vernick, April M. Zeoli, and Jennifer A. Manganello, "Association Between Youth-focused Firearm Laws and Youth Suicides," JAMA 292, no. 5 (2004)

Controlling for other factors, unintentional firearm deaths and firearm suicides among youth (ages 0-19) also fell after the federal minimum age law was enacted. (Mark Gius, "The Impact of Minimum Age and Child Access Prevention Laws on Firearm-related Youth Suicides and Unintentional Deaths," The Social Science Journal 52, no. 2 (2015))

I urge this committee to take this opportunity to reduce firearm-related homicide and suicide by passing HB 2006.

Thank you.

Penny Okamoto