



Date: March 29, 2023.

From: Kerry Spurgin, President, Oregon State Shooting Association (OSSA).

Subject: HB3513 Testimony.

I am here to testify in **SUPPORT of HB3513** for Suicide Prevention and firearms safety.

The heart of HB3513 is **Saving Lives.**

The strategy is to enable effective and easy use of offsite storage when conditions warrant for safety or suicide prevention.

What prevents us from saving Oregon lives? First, businesses, such as FFLs, feel they could be entrapped into a liability suit if a firearm returned to its owner is misused. Second, firearm owners fear they will violate Oregon's transfer laws or will be subjected to Oregon's transfer laws, just to have their firearm returned to them.

Yes, the current Oregon statute enables one to take possession of another's firearms in the case of imminent danger of harm. But waiting to this time is often *Too Late*. In addition, there are times when firearms need to be stored away from the home due to extended absences, deployments, or family needs. Unfortunately, due to the problems listed above, the right thing does not happen.

Solving these issues with a simple model is possible. First the storage part.

- An FFL, or even non-FFL, has a room with a locked box(es) much like a safe-deposit box, lockers, or secure containers.
- The firearms owner "rents" or is "granted" one of these spaces - the space is now under the control of the firearms owner.
- The firearm owner arrives and places his firearms in the locked box and retains the key or combination.
 - Alternatively, just key parts to disable firearm are stored. The remainder of the firearm left at home could be placed in a smaller locked container.
 - One would expect some inventory process to exist.
- The person that owns the building or facility does not have access to the contents of the box. It is locked.
- Time goes by.....
- The firearm owner returns, completes any entry/security process required accesses their firearms and returns home.

In this model, there is never a 'transfer' of the firearm, therefore no need to invoke the transfer/background check process.

If the firearm owner is not able to return (passing, or other) a power of attorney would be required, locks drilled/defeated and appropriate transfer processes followed. This process is like that used by safe-deposit and storage facilities.

Next is the Liability issue. Since the firearm is never transferred to the owner of the facility, liability is certainly limited. However, providing appropriate protection for the owner of the facility encourages and enables these facilities to exist and **Save Lives**.

I believe the core of the bill has no opposition. However, the bill has accumulated a number of other actions or issues. I would like to see each of the added issues removed and placed in their own single issue bills.

[The Oregon State Shooting Association \(OSSA\) added suicide prevention](#) to its safety pillars 3 years ago. 4 of 5 firearms deaths in Oregon are Suicide. OSSA has developed an awareness, education and action program with its clubs, members, and communities across Oregon. OSSA in partnership with the **Oregon Firearms Safety Coalition (OFSC)** has launched QPR training (CPR is for heart attacks, QPR is for suicide prevention) at gun clubs in partnership with county OHA programs. If you have 3 minutes, please watch our [Suicide Awareness Video](#).

Thank you.

Kerry Spurgin
President, Oregon State Shooting Association.