

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Senate Judiciary Committee members,

As a school psychologist who has worked with youth in Oregon since 1994, including in juvenile justice settings early in my career, I would like to voice my support for the passage of SB 1503. Gun violence prevention is also a priority for the National Association of School Psychologists. See infographic to the right.

For the last year and a half, I have also been serving as the co-chair on the Schools Committee for the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide. We work collaboratively with OHA and ODE, as well as other committees in the Alliance including the Lethal Means committee.

Access to lethal means is an ongoing issue in Oregon. Our rates follow a trend among states showing the gun ownership numbers directly correlated to the rates of firearm injury, death and suicide. I would encourage the creation of the task force and encourage collaboration with existing organizations and subject matter experts in this area.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Justin Potts, MS NCSP  
School Psychologist 1999-Present  
Learning Specialist, Marion County Juvenile Dept. 1994-1999  
Former President of the Oregon School Psychologists Association

**DEATH AND INJURY FROM GUNS IN THE UNITED STATES**

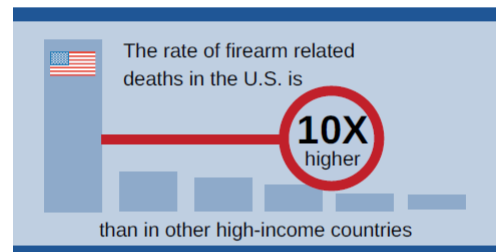
NASP aspires to protect children from gun violence by encouraging and supporting solutions that create safer schools, homes and communities to stop the tragic loss of life.

**34,000**

people a year die as a result of gun violence



Two thirds by suicide



**Research demonstrates**



Children and youth have access at home to unlocked and loaded guns



Access to guns at home is associated with increased death and injury



Exposure to gun violence can negatively impact students' mental health, behavior, and learning



Gun laws that restrict access to high-powered weapons reduce gun related deaths

Citations at [www.nasponline.org/nasp-resolution-prevent-gun-violence](http://www.nasponline.org/nasp-resolution-prevent-gun-violence)

NASP is committed to advocating for research-based policies and practices that ensure children's safety, well-being and ability to thrive.  
[www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)

