

Submitter: Kory Northrop  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1503

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today in support of SB 1503, the Task Force bill on gun violence prevention and firearm suicide prevention.

I am a concerned Oregon resident who has been affected by rampant gun violence in our state and our country.

It is deeply unsettling and maddening that every day, week, month, and year I see another news story regarding gun violence. This is a uniquely American problem. The effects of these acts of violence don't end with the shooter and the victim (even when they are the same person). The trauma ripples out through the community and nestles deep down in the public psyche. We've reached a point where it almost seems hopeless to imagine a United States without unchecked gun violence, but that doesn't have to be our reality. We just need more and more people to say, "Enough is enough" and we need more courageous politicians to hear those cries for change.

Every year, we lose close to 600 Oregonians to preventable firearm deaths. Black Oregonians are roughly 10 times more likely than white people to die by firearm homicide. And the firearm suicide rate in rural Oregon is 2.5 times higher than in urban areas and the state's veteran suicide rate is 37% higher than the national average.

I strongly support the SB1503, Task Force bill, and urge the Task Force to prioritize prevention efforts that are centered around those most impacted by gun deaths and shootings, as well as firearm suicides. I urge the Task Force to analyze and prioritize ongoing, sustainable funding for efforts for prevention work that is making the most meaningful, equitable impact, both for homicide and suicide prevention.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Kory ~ Eugene, OR