

Submitter: John and Sallyanne Wilson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1503

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

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

We are a couple living in a retirement community in Clackamas County. Gun violence is a very personal concern because our family was deeply affected by a mass shooting several years ago. After losing a family member to a senseless crime we have tried to support legislators who will take action to limit access to potential murder weapons and deal with community issues that contribute to gun violence.

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.

We 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.

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

Sincerely,

John and Sallyanne Wilson  
Portland