

Submitter: Candy Yow
On Behalf Of: Women for Gun Rights
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1503

My name is Candy Yow, I am the Oregon Lead for Women for Gun Rights: Thank you members of the Committee for allowing my testimony.

I don't know of anyone who would not agree to lowering or ending Suicide, we have all had to deal with loved ones taking their own lives and it is painful. I believe in Studies, Education, and or anything that would help in this matter. The problem I see with SB1503 is it isn't really about preventing Suicide, it is about attacking Firearm Owners and our Constitution again. Mental Health is the main factor of Suicide, we need to deal with the Mental Health issue more than anything if we truly want to help prevent Suicide. It is easy to point a finger at Firearms and blame them but I have never seen a Firearm shoot without someone pulling the trigger, the same as a drug overdose, or any other means of Suicide, it is the decision of the person doing it. That is the answer to what you are looking for. I don't see you wanting to stop Fentinal or any other hard drugs that are readily available even to our youth. It is not the means of how they take their life as it is how to make them want to live, that is what this study should be about. A positive means of curbing mental health. Education not Legislation, Firm on Crime, Accountability for actions. Suicide has continued to climb rapidly because we don't hold criminals accountable, we need more education and less legislation. With drugs and crime on the rise, no wonder that Mental Health issues are on the rise. If you look back at history you will see how the rise and fall of Suicide follows: taking God out of our Country, The lose of the Family unit, rise and fall of the Economy, Crime, War, Broken Families, etc. I guess I am having a hard time seeing why this is about Firearms, if we truly care about those struggling we would want to get to the bottom of the issue, Mental Health.

In Washington State, an astonishing 79% of firearm deaths are suicides, all of which are preventable through education and safe storage of firearms during times of crisis. "Women for Gun Rights supports a non government organization called Hold My Guns, where people can voluntarily have others hold their guns through crisis, deployments, etc."
crisis.<https://saferhomescoalition.org/>

How about you ask that the firearms industry be included? We already have amazing programs in the industry, including KIDSSafe and NSSF programs, Women for Gun Rights, etc.

Thank you for your time, Candy

Education Not Legislation, Firm on Crime, Accountability

