

Chair Prozanski, Vice chair Tatcher and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my full support for SB 1503, the Gun Violence and Suicide Prevention Task Force Act. This crucial legislation represents a significant step forward in addressing the urgent need to combat gun violence and prevent suicides within our communities.

As someone who has been deeply impacted by suicide, I feel compelled to share my story in support of measures to prevent gun violence and suicide. Unfortunately, suicide has touched my family in profound ways, with several members at risk and some having attempted to take their own lives. However, the most devastating loss came when a loved one died by suicide, and the means they chose was a gun.

What makes this loss even more heartbreaking is the realization that all those in my family who survived their suicide attempts used other means. It is clear to me that guns are uniquely lethal among other forms of suicide. The ease of access and the irreversible nature of gunshot wounds leave little room for intervention or hope for survival.

My personal experience has reinforced my belief in the importance of enacting measures to prevent gun violence and suicide. By supporting initiatives like the creation of a task force and funding research on this issue, we can work towards reducing the devastating impact of suicide on individuals, families, and communities.

The creation of a dedicated task force underscores our commitment to tackling these pressing issues comprehensively and proactively. By allocating funds for research on gun violence and suicide prevention, this Act equips us with the necessary resources to better understand the root causes and identify effective interventions.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Task Force on Gun Violence and Suicide Prevention ensures a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to addressing these complex challenges. By bringing together experts from various fields, including healthcare, public safety, and mental health, we can develop evidence-based strategies that prioritize prevention and intervention.

Importantly, the requirement for the task force to report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to healthcare ensures accountability and transparency in our efforts. This regular reporting mechanism will enable us to track progress, evaluate outcomes, and make informed decisions about future initiatives.

I commend the commitment of our legislators to prioritizing the safety and well-being of our communities through the appropriation of funds for research on gun violence and suicide prevention. By investing in prevention efforts, we can save lives and build safer, healthier communities for all.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the of this committee to support the Gun Violence and Suicide Prevention Task Force Act. Together, let us take meaningful action to address these critical public health issues and make a positive difference in the lives of countless individuals and families across our state.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Maria Faria, Corvallis, Oregon