

## Written Testimony

My name is Elise Gutierrez-Encinas, a Sophomore at Jesuit High School in Beaverton, Oregon, and I am part of Students Demand Action. Every day, I wake up with the fear that my school could be the next site of a tragedy. The thought that any day could end with gun violence is a reality that I should not have to live with. Schools should be places of learning, growth, and opportunity. But many times, they become a place where young lives are lost, where families are torn apart, and where the promise of education is replaced with the fear of never making it home. I am very disturbed by how easy it is to access a firearm. It is heartbreaking to know that we live in a world where it is easier to purchase a gun than it is to get a license for many other things that have far less potential for harm. How is it possible that anyone can buy a firearm without more thorough background checks, training, or a permit? This bill, HB-3075, is a step toward addressing that, and it is one that could ultimately save lives. What breaks my heart even more is how desensitized we have become to gun violence. Every time there is another shooting, it feels like we are numb to the pain. Gun violence should not be something we expect or tolerate. It should never be "just another story on the news." Each headline is a tragedy that tears apart families, communities, and futures. I do not want to live in a world where I get used to hearing about shootings. I do not want to be numb to the fact that people are losing their lives. I do not want to live in fear of simply going to school or walking in public spaces. HB-3075 would help change this by ensuring that only those who are responsible can purchase firearms. I am passionate about this because I do not want to keep worrying about whether my school, or the

school of my friends and family, could be the next place where gun violence strikes. I do not want my future, or the future of any child, to be overshadowed by the fear of guns in our classrooms. I want our schools to remain sanctuaries for learning, not graveyards.