

Submitter: Catherine Ryan Gregory

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Like many in our community, I'm extremely concerned about gun violence. Unfortunately, my family knows firsthand the lasting damage inflicted by gun violence -- intentional and unintentional.

My cousin David was playing at a friend's house when the two found the family's unsecured gun. They played with it and the gun discharged, killing my cousin. He was 6.

My nephew attended school as usual one November day when a peer opened fire on his classmates. My nephew was trapped inside a bathroom with another boy when the shooter entered. The shooter killed the other boy next to my nephew. My nephew ran for the door, narrowly escaping as the shooter fired. My nephew and his family will live with this trauma for the rest of their lives.

Both of these tragedies could have been prevented by securely storing guns. This basic safety measure -- which is also law in Oregon -- needs to be strengthened \*and\* complemented by stronger gun safety laws across the board. That is why I'm urging you to pass the omnibus gun safety bill, which would increase oversight of gun sellers, ban rapid fire devices that turn guns into illegal firearms, raise the age to purchase semi-automatic weapons, institute a waiting period before purchasing a gun, and more.

We have the responsibility to create safer communities for everyone, including our children. These steps would reduce suicides by gun and gun violence without unduly infringing on an individual's choice to own a gun, if they choose.

Please pass SB 243 to make Oregon safer for all.