

Submitter: Jenna McComas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Hello, my name is Jenna McComas and I am from Portland, Oregon. I am currently a first year undergraduate student at Claremont McKenna College in Southern California. My mom is a volunteer with Moms demand action, and has asked me to testify today.

Growing up in the public school system in Portland, school shooting drills were a huge part of my childhood. I remember learning how to quickly turn off lights, close blinds, and huddle with my friends out of sight, and hearing teachers pound on doors from outside to simulate a real attack. Because of how often these drills happened, it became easy to become desensitized to the threat of shootings.

But, just this last Thursday, March 13th, I was reminded how ever-present the threat of gun violence is in our country. My college was shut down for 4 hours due to the threat of an active shooter. Students received a terrifying string of texts saying to evacuate campus if possible, and to shelter in place if not. 20 minutes into the evacuation order, we received another text saying "POTENTIAL SHOOTER ON CMC CAMPUS STAY AWAY FROM AREA." At this point, I was already at the airport, heading home for spring break. Before I had to turn on airplane mode, I was frantically looking for news updates and calling my friends to make sure they were locked down safely. I had friends stuck in dining halls in the area where the shooter supposedly was. The whole experience was terrifying.

Thankfully, it ended up being a hoax call and no one was hurt. However, that experience reminded me how important policies like Measure 114 are. The people of our state made a decision to make our communities safer when they voted for Measure 114. This body should assist our state agencies and simply help them implement the ballot measure.

Please do your part to make our schools and lives safer. HB3075 will bring us one step closer to decreasing shootings and gun violence in Oregon.