

Submitter: Suzanne Mendez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

I am a pediatrician in Oregon, and I want to make sure that firearms are owned by responsible adults without a criminal record and that these firearms are bought and traded in the safest manner possible. I have personally cared for 2 children who were permanently and seriously injured due to an irresponsible firearm owner and 1 child who died as a result of their firearm injuries. Children deserve access to a secure future. One of the children I cared for was an 8 year old boy who found the shotgun that his neighbors kept near their front door for protection, and as a result of his injuries to his stomach, he will never be able to eat again. The other child I cared for was a teenager who found a gun in the drawer of her home and inadvertently shot herself in her leg, shattering her thigh bone and leading to permanent damage. And lastly, the child I cared for who died of their injuries was able to locate a shotgun in his home, load it, and then died by suicide. These 3 children had bright futures ahead of them, and current Oregon laws were not enough to protect them. Please increase gun safety in our state and secure the future of other Oregon children. Thank you!