

Submitter: Megan Simonetti Eng
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Please support House Bill 4145.

Gun regulations matter to me because my identities are inseparable from the stakes: as a mother, wife, aunt, daughter, and sister, I carry a daily, visceral responsibility to protect the people I love; as a neuropsychologist, I understand how impulsivity, emotional dysregulation, developmental vulnerability, and cognitive impairment can turn moments of crisis into irreversible tragedy when lethal means are easily accessible. Evidence consistently shows that access to firearms increases the risk of suicide, domestic violence fatalities, and accidental injury—outcomes that are not abstract to families, but devastatingly personal. Sensible gun regulations are not about eroding rights; they are about aligning policy with what we know about human behavior, brain development, and risk mitigation. Just as we regulate cars, medications, and workplaces to reduce preventable harm, we can uphold responsible ownership while implementing safeguards that save lives. For me, supporting gun regulation is both a moral obligation grounded in love for my family and a professional imperative grounded in science.

Guns are the 2nd-leading cause of death among children and teens in Oregon, and the leading cause nationwide. We can and must do better, and we made great progress when we enacted a permit to purchase law in 2022. The provisions in this bill will enable state agencies and law enforcement departments across the state to implement life-saving gun violence prevention laws to the best of their ability. I urge you to lead our state toward a future free from gun violence by doing your part to advance this bill. Thank you.