

Submitter:

Colleen Jones

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

Please support House Bill 4145. My name is Colleen Jones, and I am a high school English and Mindfulness teacher currently teaching at Gresham High School. Guns have destroyed the lives of too many of my students and their families. I have lost of beloved student to death by suicide by a gun. Numerous colleagues have lost their students to death by suicide by a gun. One of my students at the former school I taught at for 8 years, Roseburg High School, murdered almost his entire family with a gun, which he had easy access to as a 16 year old. Tragically, I was teaching at Roseburg High School during the horrific Umpqua Community College school shooting. I watched the community fall a part with that pain. And just last year, a gun was brought onto our campus at Gresham, and it brought a year of trauma and pain to all who were there that day. Teenagers should never have easy access to weapon like a gun. Their brains are developing so quickly, which mostly creates brilliance and beauty, but sometimes their impulse leads them to make decisions that ruin lives, including their own.

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.