

Submitter: Jean Carlton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Oregonians need this bill to pass in order to logistically implement Measure 114 . Voters passed 114 and the job of the legislature to respect the voice of the voters. Oregonians want increased responsibility for gun ownership because too many of our community members, especially children, and gun suicides are dying from firearm violence.

We would like to focus on one aspect of gun violence in Oregon, that is suicide deaths. In Oregon, firearms are the most commonly reported method used in suicide deaths, and firearms are the most lethal of any method, with the highest case fatality rate. 80% of all firearm deaths in Oregon are suicides, a proportion higher than the national average where roughly 60% of firearm deaths are suicides. Firearm suicides in Oregon's most rural communities are 3x higher than in our cities. Oregon's suicide-by-firearm rate is about 42% higher, making it a critical public health issue. Oregon's Veteran and Service Member firearm suicide rate is 1.5 higher than national average. Clearly Oregon has a crisis, Oregonians are dying at an inordinate rate and yet because suicidal crises are often temporary and acute, simply removing access to a highly lethal method allows for the crisis to pass. Studies consistently show that when a firearm is not easily accessible, most people do not substitute another method to attempt suicide. Putting a space of time between a person and a gun when they are suicidal can save lives, and HB4145 does this.

There are currently only two programs in Oregon that specifically focus on firearm suicides. There is one gatekeeper training, CALM, which aims to equip professionals to intervene and prevent access to firearms for suicidal patients. Safe storage programs are the only other program that specifically addresses suicide in firearm owners, and the Oregon Firearms Task Force Report of August 2025 Suicide Prevention in Oregon: A Landscape Scan found only 3 safe storage programs in Oregon.

There are many reasons to pass this bill, it will save lives and it should not be sacrificed based on an outspoken minority- it is not gun control, it is measured and rational gun violence protection that the legislature has the responsibility for implementing.

Thank you for your consideration and dedication representing Oregonians who have voted for an important measure.
Dr. Steven and Jean Carlton