

In Favor of SB 978  
Omnibus Bill that includes Safe Storage

I am writing as a life long advocate for children as a pediatric social worker, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate for foster children), mother of four, and grandmother. I also have been involved with gun sense legislation for over a decade. I see the two as intimately related.

We no longer talk about "accidental" gun deaths, but rather "unintended" and one of the primary reasons for the unintended deaths of children by guns is the failure to keep firearms safely stored. The all too easy access to firearms in the homes of parents and parents of friends is a pathway to devastating outcomes and families forever in mourning over something easily prevented.

As health providers for children, we need to be able to ask parents about guns in the home and their safe storage. As citizens we need to put the State's authority behind the absolute guarantee of firearms completely inaccessible to children. It is a public health issue and a protection of our children.

Thank you for your support of SB 978

Sincerely yours,  
Geri Berg, MSW  
Portland, Oregon