

## SB 978 Supporting Hearing testimony - Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Thank you Chairman Prozanski and the members of the Committee for holding this important hearing on SB 978.

My name is Eileen Kemp. I have been an Oregon resident since 1973. My niece's husband, Steve Forsyth, was murdered on December 11, 2012 at Clackamas Town Center as was Cindy Yuille. The shooter used an AR-15 style assault weapon which was stolen from a friend. The weapon was unsecured and loaded. The lawful owner did not report the weapon stolen to any law enforcement agency upon discovering the theft. My niece and daughter Katie had just left Steve in the mall and were nearby in Macy's. Hearing the shots, they took cover in the store. (To this day, they avoid being in an area where fireworks are set off, eg. July 4th, as the sounds bring it all back.) If the shooter's gun had not jammed, others might have been murdered as well.

My father enjoyed hunting and owned several guns. They were kept in a locked cabinet in our home with the ammunition in a separate area.

I was an elementary school librarian for 30 years in two Portland-area school districts, retiring in 2003 (though I continue to volunteer in elementary school classrooms). I never had to experience lock down or active shooter training drills while teaching, though my grand-niece, a 4th grade teacher, now does!

According to a US Secret Service study, 60% of school shooters get their firearms from home, the home of a relative or the home of a close friend, so it is important that firearms are stored unloaded, locked up and with the ammunition secured separately. There should be consequences for irresponsible gun owners who don't secure their firearms when it leads to the injury or death of others!