

From: [Wendy Lawton](#)
To: [SJUD Exhibits](#); [Lisa Reynolds](#)
Subject: Written testimony for SB978
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 9:26:16 PM

Dear Oregon Legislators,

I write to respectfully ask for your support of SB978, which includes provisions for safe storage of firearms. This is a simple, smart investment in our public safety.

I write as a mother, and a former health and education reporter for The Oregonian, to ask you to pass this important bill, which would protect our children, our families, and our communities. The safe storage provision in SB978 would:

- Keep guns out of the hands of children
- Keep guns out of the hands of thieves and criminals
- Keep guns out of the hands of school shooters
- Keep guns out of the hands of people who want to commit suicide

In short, this bill would keep guns where they belong – in the hands of their rightful owners.

No one should have access to a gun other than the person who bought it and is trained to use it.

Gun violence is a public health issue. Guns kill, injure, and traumatize thousands of Americans every year – violence that ripples across communities and families for generations.

We can prevent this violence, grief, and fear by passing common sense gun control legislation. SB978 is one of these common-sense laws. Please support its passage.

Finally, I ask your consideration for personal reason.

My only child starts her very first job on Thursday, working at a jewelry store in the Clackamas Town Center. Seven years ago, a young man with a stolen gun walked into the mall and killed two people and seriously injured a third. I think of that shooting often, and I worry about my daughter working at the mall. I worry my daughter every day when I drop her off at school. Will she be safe?

Gun violence is a national sickness, one that infects us all. But we can cure it with good legislation like the Cindy Yuille and Steve Forsyth Act Safe Storage Act, which is named for the two people who died in the Clackamas Town Center Shooting.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue, and your consideration of my testimony. Please vote for safety!

Sincerely,

Wendy Lawton

780 West Pond Drive

Fairview, OR 97024

401-837-6055