



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

April 2, 2019

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
900 Court St, NE, Hearing Room 50
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of SB 978 and the -1 amendment, which establishes secure firearm storage requirements, allows gun dealers to establish a minimum purchasing age, and provides local governments with the ability to adopt regulations for concealed carry firearms in and around public buildings. These provisions will help protect public safety, a fundamental priority for the City of Portland.

Gun violence poses a serious threat to the safety, livability and health of our community. In 2014, there were 481 deaths due to firearms in Oregon, with 168 of those occurring in Multnomah County. Limiting access to firearms through appropriate and legal restrictions will help to curb the number of fatalities and serious injuries. Carrying firearms in shared public spaces, especially in dense urban environments, poses a real danger to those who share those spaces. Additionally, regulating access to firearms through secure storage requirements and reasonable minimum age thresholds are important incremental steps toward decreasing suicides, homicides and unintentional shootings.

SB 978 with the -1 amendment offers common-sense solutions to help the epidemic of firearm-related injuries in our country. We urge your strong support.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner

Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner