

Good afternoon, my name is Emily Teixeira and I am a resident of West Linn. I am a mother, a former intelligence officer for the Department of Defense, wife to a law enforcement officer, a Gun violence prevention activist, and a gun owner.

My father was a hunter and hunting safety instructor who gifted me my first firearm — a .22 revolver — upon graduation from university. Firearms have always been a part of my life. Growing up in rural Texas we used firearms as a tool to protect our animals from predators. Living in suburban Oregon, suffice to say that is no longer on my radar but because my husband is a senior law enforcement officer, firearms are still a daily part of my life.

When my husband comes home from work he says hello, give hugs to our 4 and 6 year old boys and me, and then he walks upstairs and puts his firearm in the safe. Where it remains until he's ready to once again keep it on his person. In our home, as in his workplace, the standard is that if a firearm is not on your person it is in the safe or secured unloaded with a lock.

I know that we will teach our kids respect and proper use of firearms as they get older, but I do not know what other children entering our home have been taught or how firearms might be stored at homes my children may visit.

With this bill, gun owners would be required to store guns responsibly, so that children cannot gain access. There is no excuse for not storing a firearm in a secure way.

I urge you to pass HB 4005 to require all families to treat firearms with respect and store them accordingly. Thank you.