



6 February 2020

To: Chair Tawna Sanchez and members of the House Judiciary Committee  
Subject: Oregon NOW support for HB4005, a bill to impose requirements for the safe storage and transport of firearms

National Organization for Women (Oregon NOW) expresses its support for HB4005 in the 2020 legislative session.

Gun violence is a serious problem in the United States. While homicide rates are often emphasized in talking about gun violence, suicide accounts for the greatest number of gun-related deaths annually. By reducing casual access to insecurely stored firearms, the measures prescribed in HB4005 can reduce suicides, accidental gun injuries, and violence resulting when lost or stolen guns are used criminally. The bill defines mechanisms for safe storage as well as reasonable and enforceable penalties for failing to meet these requirements.

Eliminating violence against women is a top priority for Oregon NOW. We feel that this measure which penalizes irresponsible handling of guns will contribute to achieving this priority goal. We also endorse the bill on the basis of its value to the community at large, particularly for more vulnerable groups like LBGTQIA youth, by making it harder to get unauthorized access to guns when contemplating suicide. Similarly, reducing the likelihood that lost or stolen guns wind up in the hands of persons with criminal intent will protect women, families, and the community at large.

Please work to advance this legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Chin Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Chin Ryan  
President, Oregon NOW