



February 7, 2020

Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chair Sprenger, Vice-Chair Bynum, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Re: HB 4005 – Safe Gun Storage

Children First works with our 120 partner organizations to develop the Children's Agenda. We identify and elevate legislative concepts that will support the needs of Oregon's children - our children - so that all of our children have opportunities to reach their full potential. **HB 4005 - Safe Gun Storage - is part of the 2020 Children's Agenda.**

Sadly, many Oregon children attempt to commit suicide by various means each year. However, there is no method that allows a child to complete this act as effectively as a gun. Nationally, 83% of suicide attempts who use a gun end in death. For comparison, less than 2% of people who attempt suicide by poisoning or cutting themselves are successful. The easy access to guns means that in Oregon, ten children and youth under the age of 18 die each year from suicide by gun. And firearms are the second leading cause of death among children and youth in Oregon.

Simply put, too many Oregon children have access to firearms without adult supervision. With the deaths that continue each year among Oregon children, gun owners should be required to safely secure their weapons.

Children First for Oregon urges your support for HB 4005.

Sincerely,

Chris Coughlin  
Legislative Director

**Our Children Oregon**

Bringing Together Children First for Oregon and the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon

[www.cffo.org](http://www.cffo.org)  
(503) 236-9754