

To: All Oregon State Legislators  
From: Colette DeWitt  
Re: HB 4005, Secure Weapons Storage Bill

Dear Legislators,

I am 66 years old. My family moved to Klamath Falls when I was 2 years old. My parents were both from homesteading families in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. My dad hunted and we ate venison all winter long every year.

In contrast, this very morning, 2/7/2020, I attended the Community Peace Initiative meeting at Portland Police Department's North Precinct. I learned that there have been 67 human to human shootings in Portland since January 1, 2020. This is almost double the number for the same time period in 2019. Two random bystanders have been wounded. One woman was waiting in line in her car with her family in the Taco Bell drive-thru at 7th & NE Broadway. Another woman was driving home from work on I-84 when she got caught in the middle of a gun battle. They both survived by the grace of God.

Hunting for humans is a far cry from hunting for food.

When I was in high school, most young people died in auto accidents. Not anymore. In 2020, guns are the second leading cause of death for young people.

Suicide, unintentional shootings, city gun violence, domestic violence, and mass shootings are contributing to death, disability, and heartbreak in our communities beyond measure.

Every gun that is secured is one less opportunity for someone to make the impulsive decision to kill. Killing someone with a gun is easy. Living with the consequences of killing someone or being injured or having a family member killed is not.

I know that this law will not solve the gun violence problem in Portland and in Oregon. But it will help.

Please pass HB 4005. My family, my friends, and I want to be able to pick up food in the drive-thru, drive on the freeway, and go to the mall without fear.

There is so much more I could say.

I will conclude with this:

HB 4005 will save lives. Period.

Sincerely,  
Colette DeWitt

Colette DeWitt  
Portland SE Local Group Lead  
Moms Demand Action Volunteer  
Oregon Chapter  
[colette.dewitt@gmail.com](mailto:colette.dewitt@gmail.com)