



Testimony in Support of HB 2510
House Committee on Health Care
Date: 3/8/2021

Dear Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and members of the committee,

My name is Catherine Nguyen and I am a pediatric nurse practitioner at Doernbecher Children's Hospital. I am writing on behalf of more than 200 pediatric nurse practitioners across the Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners in strong support of HB 2510.

As you know, Oregon does not have any statutes governing safe gun storage. In the U.S., 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one unlocked and loaded firearm, providing easy access and increasing the risk of unintentional injuries, school gun violence, and youth suicide. An American Medical Association (AMA) study found that households that locked both firearms and ammunition were associated with a 78% lower risk of self-inflicted firearms injuries and 85% lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children. Another AMA study estimated that if half of households with children that contain at least one unlocked gun switched to locking all their guns, 1 in 3 youth gun suicides and unintentional deaths could be prevented, saving an estimated 251 lives in a single year.

Suicide is the leading cause of death among Oregonians 10 to 24 years old, with guns being the most common mechanism. Oregon has the fastest-growing rate of pediatric suicide by firearm in the country. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Oregon gun sales increased by 43% in the first 10 months of 2020. 40% of those purchases were by first time buyers. Today, Oregonians and their children are spending much more time at home with unsecured guns.

This is a public health crisis.

Simply put, safe storage of guns can save lives. We urge you to vote yes on HB 2510. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Catherine Nguyen, MSN, PPCNP-BC

Oregon Chapter of NAPNAP Legislative Co-Chair

Lisa Crupi, MSN, CPNP

Oregon Chapter of NAPNAP President