

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Sarah Douglass and I live in Bend. I am a parent of two teenagers and a gun owner. I'm writing to urge this committee to support HB 2510, which would create a secure storage law that requires gun owners to store their firearms securely when a firearm is not on their person.

Responsible gun owners, such as myself and my husband, follow recommended secure storage practices. While I wish that all gun owners would do so, the reality is that over half of gun owners do NOT securely store their firearms. There are so many simple and inexpensive (or free) ways to lock or store a firearm. There is simply no excuse not to do so.

Failure to secure guns properly adds to the public health crisis of gun violence we face in Oregon and across the United States. As a parent, I'm deeply concerned about the impact of unsecured guns and the risk of suicide among our teens and young people. Gun violence is the leading cause of death for youth and teens in Oregon and 68% of those deaths are suicides.

With the increase in firearm sales during the pandemic, and the social and emotional toll it's taken on our young people, securing guns is more important than ever. Please support this common sense measure to help keep our children and our communities safe and vote yes on HB 2510. Thank you.