



Testimony in Support of House Bill 2510

March 11, 2021

House Committee on Health Care

Deborah Riddick JD, RN

Good afternoon Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Salinas and Hayden, and members of the committee. My name is Deborah Riddick. I am the Director of Government Relations for the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). We represent 15,000 registered nurses and professional members, and the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon. The ONA supports HB 2510, which would require owner or possessor of firearm to secure firearm with trigger or cable lock, in locked container or in gun room except in specified circumstances.

The ONA commends the sponsors of HB 2510 for their commitment to public health and safety evidenced by the reasonable provisions in this bill. Simply put, this bill requires that:

- the owner or possessor safely store specified firearms within a room or during transport;
- violators of storage provisions be subject to fines, which increase if a minor becomes in possession of an improperly stored firearms;
- theft or loss of a firearms be reported in a timely manner;
- minors be supervised when using firearms;
- extends strict liability for violations to minor supervision provisions;
- reasonable exceptions and liability limitations are included; and
- the Oregon Health Authority determine by rulemaking acceptable specifications for trigger and cable locks and locked containers.

ONA has a history of supporting safe guns storage measures and HB 2510 is a proposal that is long overdue. Our nurses, many of which are gun owners, have witnessed the resulting harm to victims facilitated when firearms are not safely stored. They have cared for minors who have been injured by firearms when improper supervision occurs. Sadly, they have been present at the bedside, and at other care settings, when patients have lost their lives due to unsafe storage or supervision. The impacts of isolation, increased fear and anxiety, and self-medication exacerbated by our current pandemic threatens the mental health of Oregonians, statewide. National suicide rates are on the rise. The negative impacts and potential harm to our residents will be reduced with the passage of this bill. Its benefits far outweigh any perceived burden.

HB 2510's requirements, in our opinion, are obvious deterrents to improper acquisition and usage of firearms under very limited circumstances. ONA supports HB 2510 because it aligns with our mission to support healthy communities in the State of Oregon; we hope it aligns with your vision for the state, as well, and that you will support and pass this bill.