



Sharon Meieran
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 1

To: House Committee on Healthcare
From: Sharon Meieran, Multnomah County Commissioner
Date: March 11, 2021
Re: Support for House Bill 2510

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sharon Meieran. I am a Multnomah County Commissioner representing District 1, and an emergency physician. I am pleased to offer this testimony in support of House Bill 2510.

As an ER doctor, I have seen the devastating impact of gun violence firsthand when treating victims of gun violence and bearing witness to their families' grief. As a mom, I talk to my kids regularly about their profound fears arising from school shootings across the country. Each of these lenses reinforces my strong support for common sense steps to mitigate the risks associated with firearms.

Suicide is a leading cause of death among Oregon youth, and firearms are involved in about half of these deaths¹. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 85-90% of suicide attempts with a firearm are fatal. When someone is in crisis, time matters - and reducing an individual's ready access to a firearm greatly reduces the likelihood of that person dying by suicide.

HB 2510 requires safe storage of firearms, reporting of the loss or theft of a firearm, and supervision of minors using firearms. These measures are evidence-based steps to prevent injury and death arising from accidents, suicide, and violence.

I urge you to pass HB 2510.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Meieran

¹ Oregon Health Authority, 2019 Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan Annual Report (https://sharedsystems.dhsosha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/1e8874_19.pdf)