

Chair Prusak and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB2510, a bill that will save lives.

Secure storage will help prevent unintentional shootings and gun suicides, particularly among children. Firearms are the second-leading cause of death among children and teens in Oregon with an average of 29 firearm deaths each year. The majority of these (68%) are from gun suicides, which could be prevented if they did not have easy access to guns.

This bill also requires reporting lost or stolen firearms, which is common sense and should be expected as part of responsible gun ownership. The number of deaths and injuries that occur due to unsafe and negligent firearm storage are tragic and preventable. Clearly it is necessary that we codify into law basic safety standards for firearm owners to follow since it is clear that too many Oregonians are still injured and dying from shootings from unsecured weapons.

- Hilary Uhlig