

Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and members of the committee:

Good afternoon and thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Peren Tiemann, I am a junior at Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego Oregon, and I am a volunteer with Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

We are a grassroots movement fighting for public safety measures that respect the Second Amendment while protecting us from gun violence.

I am here today to urge the committee to support SB 554-A20, which would help keep guns out of schools and college campuses and protect communities.

As a high school student, I do not feel safe knowing that firearms are currently allowed in schools and on college campuses. The firearm suicide rate for children and teens has increased by 59 percent in the past decade; for children 10 to 14, the rate has increased 114 percent. As access to firearms increases the risk of suicide by three times, taking these steps are crucial to tackle these trends. Keeping guns off of campus is a common sense way to protect students, especially those who are in crisis.

Please support SB 554-A20. Thank you.