

I am writing in support of SB554-A20 regarding allowing gun carry to be restricted in public spaces in Oregon, and requiring owners to store firearms safely. Schools, universities, the Capitol - public spaces such as these ought to be allowed to take steps to protect the public. As a member of the public, I would prefer to know that I'm just as safe at the Oregon Capitol as I am in the airport in Bend! We've had gun violence throughout this country for decades, and especially this year, it just feels like there's a new shooting every day, and we feel extremely unsafe. Our students shouldn't need to feel like they need to protect themselves from guns, whether kindergarteners or college students. Those who have guns absolutely should be expected to store those guns safely, both to prevent accidents and to protect against misuse. I am a gun owner, and I store my guns safely, so I'm not speaking from a virulently anti-gun perspective - just a common-sense perspective. I understand that these are not sufficient by themselves to prevent all gun violence, but they are reasonable steps to take to make things incrementally better. And while there are also efforts to address this on a national level, I see no conflict in also addressing them at the state and local level. Thank you for your consideration!