

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB554-A20

All Oregonians, especially kids, whether or not they are living in a home with firearms deserve to be protected from accidental or deliberate shooting. There are public places guns should not be allowed except when carried by on-duty law enforcement officers: schools, universities, airports, and our State Capitol. Even at home, guns should be locked up when not under the direct control of the lawful owner.

Every parent knows children are intensely curious and can find even the best-hidden dangerous objects. We also know our teens are often moody, prone to impulsive decisions, sometimes secretive, and subject to peer opinion. It's up to our elected officials to mandate securely storing guns and, separately, ammunition so kids cannot make a fatal mistake. Most Oregonians including gun owners agree. As a retired nurse midwife who sees death and serious injury involving firearms as a preventable public health problem, I urge passage of SB554-A20 . I want all those precious babies I brought into this world to live out their natural lives free of gun violence.

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