

Chair Smith Warner and members of the committee:

My name is Hilary Uhlig. I live in Washington County and am a volunteer leader with the Oregon Chapter of Moms 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 urge you to vote yes on Senate Bill 554 with the -A20 amendment, which would allow public entities like the Capitol, airports, and schools and universities to prohibit guns in their buildings and on their property, as well as require secure storage of firearms.

Current Oregon law forces schools, colleges, and local government buildings to allow guns to be brought onto their property. Research shows that policies that force colleges to allow guns on campuses are likely to lead to more shootings, homicides, and suicides, and that they're unlikely to prevent mass shootings on campus. Research also strongly supports the idea that if guns are carried into schools, children are more likely to gain access to those guns. In an average year in Oregon, 522 people die and an additional 412 are wounded by guns. Firearms are the 2nd leading cause of death among children and teens in Oregon.

It's important to note that this bill doesn't force localities to change anything if they don't want to. But it does give the power back to local officials to make the public safety decisions that are right for their communities.

This bill matters to me because I am the parent of a child in public high school and have a child at University of Oregon. I want their school administrators to be allowed to prevent guns in their buildings and campuses because more guns do not make people safer.

This bill matters to me because in a normal year, I spend time in the Capitol building in Salem, as do you. I want to be able to participate in legislator meetings and committee hearings without worrying if someone next to me has a gun. Our democracy does not work at gunpoint.

I urge your support for SB554 with the -A20 amendment. Thank you.