

Good morning Representative Smith Warner Vice Chairs Drazan and Holvey and Committee members

My name is Dr. Doreen Dodgen-Magee and I am a psychologist and a survivor of gun violence that occurred in Oregon.

My sister in law and 3 nieces, aged 5 yrs, 3 yrs, and 5 months were shot and killed at point blank range by their father, who had a restraining order against him, while some of my nieces' Kindergarten classmates watched on.

For a long time I didn't tell our family's story because I thought it was just that...our story. I came to learn, however, that our story is America's story as 53 women every month are killed by gun by their intimate partners every month

My story is also Oregon's story.

When a firearm isn't securely stored it's, too often, accessed by people who can impulsively turn it on themselves or others with powerfully lethal accuracy.

This isn't just absolutely about highly reliable statistics

and it is also about stories!

My friend Jennifer's husband died by gun suicide even after repeated less lethal attempts. He was the father of two young children at the time.

My friend, Kristen Song, lost her 15 year old son to an accidental self imposed gun shot wound while he was at a friend's house where guns were unsecured.

Families and children (like my nieces classmates who witnessed the grizzly murders) or whose loved ones were killed at Clackamas Town Center, or who witnessed the tragedy but survived, can attest to the havoc of loss brought about at the hands of someone who easily accesses an unsecured firearm. This can, and MUST, stop!

It's also time that firearms be banned in places like the State House, universities, and schools.

The first time I came to Salem to provide testimony, I left the chamber after testimony to gather myself. On my way out, someone standing in the back hurled a hate filled sentence my way. I was immediately scared. and rightly so, as I knew, first hand, the potential for lethality of guns in the hands of people who are angry and provoked and that people could be carrying them in the State House.

It is time for Oregon's legislature to have the same courage as those Oregonians who are subjected to gun violence must summon every day (including those who provide testimony) by voting yes on SB554