

April 21, 2021

Thank you Chair Smith Warner and members of the committee for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of SB554 and Amendment 20, relating to guns in public spaces and secure storage

My name is Elizabeth Manvel, I am a resident of Salem and a public health professional. Peter Courtney and Brian Clem represent me and my family in the Oregon Legislature.

Gun violence is a public health issue and I believe should be treated as such - with policy solutions backed by community support and data. SB554 has both. Oregon communities are tired of trauma related to violence and intimidation with guns.

I don't want to read any more news stories about children getting an adult's gun because it wasn't securely stored. The current "personal responsibility" aspect of gun storage isn't working. This legislation provides clear definitions of secure gun storage.

I would like to state some encouraging words in my testimony for anyone who feels hopeless about ending gun violence in Oregon: We don't have to accept that gun violence is inevitable. It is ok to have hope that we will end the gun violence epidemic in our state. SB554 will bring us closer to safety, to protecting our children, elders and the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you so much for your time and for your service to Oregonians.

Yours in health,
Elizabeth Manvel
Salem