More guns mean more violence. Full stop. It is past time in the United States and in Oregon to acknowledge that we have a horrific epidemic of self-inflicted gun violence. We have achieved a worldwide reputation as a mercenary and violent society, supported by appalling gun death numbers and daily mass murders. To change this we need to acknowledge that the culture around guns in the US has been very intentionally grown and cultivated for economic and political gain. There are so many victims of this political manipulation, not only those who have lost their lives and but also, critically, those who have been assured by politicians and gun dealers that they are unsafe without a gun in their hands. History has shown us over and over how easy it is to feed fear and paranoia. The GOP and violent minorities have mastered this tactic.How tragic is it that a mother says "I have two children to protect and need a gun"? It is time to demonstrate leadership that denies this sad delusion and the "gun disease" inflicting our society. It is time to remove all guns from public spaces where we know that risks are extremely high. This is one real way we can protect our children.