

Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chair Drazan, Vice Chair Holvey, and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Mazie Drummond and I am a seventeen year old in Multnomah County. I am testifying today in support of SB 554 because Oregonians deserve to feel safe in homes and in public spaces.

As a young person, it worries me greatly that there may be firearms in public spaces where myself and other youth are trying to learn and live. When guns are present in spaces, the danger of injury or death by firearm inherently increases (for example, guns on campuses increase a risk for suicide). If those using public spaces feel unsafe allowing firearms, they should not be obligated to do so.

It's also crucial that firearms are secured safely in homes in order to prevent suicide and accidental death. Having a firearm in a home that is secured unsafely poses risk to children and all those who live in the home. Guns are lethal weapons, not a triviality. We have to make sure that they are treated with a respect of the risks that they impose.

Gun violence has skyrocketed over the pandemic and we have the opportunity to curb an epidemic that has been so normalized by our youth and our communities. It's hitting communities in many ways, but we have the opportunity to take steps to eliminate the risk of a firearm in public spaces and home. I ask you to support this bill, and also urge you to consider how to center equity with the bill and always.

I urge you to support SB 554.

Thank you House Committee on Rules,  
Mazie Drummond