

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Hilary Uhlig and am a volunteer 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, which would allow cities, counties, schools, and other public entities to prohibit guns in their buildings and on their property.

Current Oregon law forces schools, colleges, and local government buildings to allow guns.

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, 522 people die and an additional 412 are wounded by guns in Oregon. Gun deaths and injuries cost Oregon \$3 billion, of which \$81 million is paid by taxpayers. We literally can't afford to wait to implement common-sense reforms like SB 554.

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 children in schools. I want their school administrators to be allowed to restrict 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 wondering if someone next to me has a gun. Our democracy does not work at gunpoint.

I urge your support for SB554. Thank you.