

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and fellow Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 554. As a lifelong Oregonian, I have been supportive of efforts to make our communities safe from gun violence. Oregon however is still in need of progress to view gun violence as a public health crisis and recognize the daily toll it takes on citizens. Every day over 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 230 people are shot and wounded with a gun.<sup>1</sup> Oregon has the 35th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at \$795 per person each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Oregon \$3 billion, of which \$81 million is paid by taxpayers.<sup>2</sup> We can all agree keeping our families and communities safe from harm is paramount. SB 554 will help keep guns out of schools and off college campuses and will empower local officials to make the public safety decisions that are best for their communities.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Lindgren

1. <https://everytownresearch.org/report/nonfatal-in-the-us/>

2. <https://maps.everytownresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Gun-Violence-in-Oregon-2.9.2021.pdf>