

My Dear Legislators,

I have written in support of gun-sense legislation in the past and have come to talk to many of you as well. I am asking for you to support SB 554. I, myself, am from Parkland, Florida, where a disturbed young man was able to easily gain access to a public school and massacre 17 souls. I lived in that community, shopped with those people, went to services with their children, interacted with them in daily life. The adults and children that were killed had families and friends, like all of us. They were community members, like all of us. As a result, the trauma was not limited to those killed, present, and their family members...the WHOLE community, and I dare say, the WHOLE country were traumatized. Since and before the Parkland massacre, there were plenty of others. Communities never believe that it can happen to them, until it does.

After the breach of our OWN Capitol and that of the country's Capitol, it should be abundantly clear why weapons do not belong in public buildings. I watched in horror how legislators in both places were terrorized and threatened, and their lives LITERALLY put at risk. This is not hyperbole...it never was. But this time...this time it should be clear as day. For our children, your constituents, and yourselves, please make this common sense decision of allowing for safer places to learn and work. You've been presented with plenty of statistics, and you should at this point be familiar with the inordinate amount of gun violence deaths in this country. No right is absolute and immune from regulation. NONE. We must balance public policy and the good of all people with individual rights. No one is taking away guns. Literally no one. It is good policy, it is morally just, and IT IS CONSTITUTIONAL to regulate the second amendment in a way that does not place undue burden on individual rights. Please, for the love of your communities, please support SB 554.

Thank You,

Gennifer Goldstein, mom, law student, wife, daughter, Oregon resident, member of your community