

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of SB554 to allow school districts and local government entities to decide whether to allow people with concealed handgun licenses to bring loaded guns into public buildings. As an educator and a community college school board member, there is NEVER any reason why someone should be allowed to bring a *loaded gun* into a building designated for educational purposes. Local school districts and agencies, as well as all public buildings, should have the authority to limit this activity.

As a second grade teacher, I can testify to the heartbreak of working with young children that live with the threat of gun violence each year in schools. Each year when I teach active shooter safety, children cry and the questions I have to answer are not those that any teacher should have to answer. Two years ago as I was returning from an outside activity, my school had an active threat lockdown. I was confronted with running for the building with 28 children while also scooping up a child on crutches. My students were amazing, but we were all shaking when I finally got us settled safely in our classroom. Our students deserve to *be and feel safe* and allowing school districts to implement this small but important change will help move us in that direction.

As a member of the Lane Community College Board of Education, I also know how critical it is for our campus to be safe from gun violence. 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. Community Colleges deserve the right to be able to implement policy that will continue to allow us to ensure the safety of our faculty, staff and students.

Oregon has done much to promote gun safety, but there is still much to do. I'd like you to keep my second graders in mind when you think about supporting SB554. Please remember Umpqua Community College and those who lost their lives there when you are thinking about the significance of SB554. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for the work you do daily on behalf of all Oregonians. I strongly urge you to support SB 554 to allow school districts and local government entities to decide whether to allow people with concealed handgun licenses to bring loaded guns into public buildings.

Sincerely,

Lisa Fragala
2nd Grade Teacher, 4J School District
Lane Community College Board of Education member