



3/5/2023

Oregon Legislature
Salem, Oregon 97301
Senate Committee on Education

Dear Chairman Dembrow, Vice Chairwoman Weber, Co-Chairs Anderson, Johnson, Frederick, Blouin, Robinson and Wagner,

Oregon NOW strongly supports SB 551, a bill to require school districts to provide specified information related to secure storage of medications and firearms.

Oregon NOW stands for the safety of the Women of Oregon and their children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated in the New England Journal of Medicine that child fatalities from firearms spiked over 13% from 2019-2020 in the U.S. and that firearm fatalities were the leading cause of death for people 1-19 years of age. In addition, drug overdose and poisoning increased by 83% from 2019 to 2020 among children and adolescents, becoming the third leading cause of death in this group. The research confirms what we can all see. We need more education in these areas to protect our children. Oregon NOW feels that this bill could save lives.

Please support this bill and fund these services to help protect the children of Oregon.

Respectfully,

Kim Critelli
President, Oregon NOW

Nancy Cook
Legislative Chair, Oregon NOW