

Submitter: Jasmine Gerraty  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2005

To Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallen, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Jasmine Gerraty and I am writing as an independent citizen and Central Oregon constituent in support of House Bill 2005, which will expand to include HB 2006 and 2007. This past year a 20 year old gunman entered our local grocery store in Bend, Oregon and killed two individuals. This incident not only took two lives away from our community members, but it sparked fear throughout the community and other communities across the state. When and where will the next shooting take place? Who is next? These are common questions that myself and my peers are faced with each day.

Research suggests that individuals aged 18-to-20 years old commit gun homicides at a rate nearly three times greater than adults 21 or older. This was the case here in Bend. One component of HB 2005 would raise the age to purchase and own semiautomatic rifles to 21 years old. This is a small step in the right direction.

In Central Oregon the false sense of security we had before the shooting is long gone. Places we have felt once safe are now in-question. These places we have frequented have become the battle grounds across the country for many mass shooting incidents, whether it is work, schools, grocery stores, or a concert, we are living in constant fear. Due to this ongoing fear and lack of action, Oregonians voted to make our communities safer by passing Measure 114 in November, of which has been blocked by the gun lobby in federal and state courts. The urgency to make change and feel safe again is still at the forefront for residents here in Central Oregon.

HB 2005 will also expand protections for individuals working in official government buildings by prohibiting guns in those spaces as well as reducing ghost guns through additional tracking and background checks. These policy components are imperative to work towards building safe spaces again in our communities.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 2005.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Gerraty  
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