

Submitter: Barbara Dallas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2006

To House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Barbara Dallas and I live in Happy Valley. I am a retired medical social worker, a parent of 2 wonderful daughters, and grandparent to 3 children 6 and under. I am writing in support of HB 2006, which would raise the minimum age for purchasing a semi-automatic rifle to 21.

Firearms are the leading cause of death for young people ages 18 to 20, and the firearm suicide rate among this group has increased 41% in the last decade. There are well documented studies showing that the brains, emotions, and hormones of individuals 20 and younger are not fully developed. In Oregon, it is illegal to purchase alcohol or cigarettes until age 21, yet semi-automatic long rifles can be purchased at age 18 and are far more lethal, with immediate and potentially deadly consequences. This makes no sense.

Eighteen to 20-year-olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 years and older. In Uvalde, TX, Buffalo, NY, and Parkland, FL 48 people were killed in total. In each attack, the shooter legally purchased a gun before he turned 21. The shooting in Bend last August, when 3 people died, was committed by a 20-year-old male. Other states are starting to recognize the life-saving benefits of raising the minimum age of purchase to 21. It is time for Oregon to do the same.

I also request your support of HB 2005, which bans undetectable and untraceable ghost guns, and HB 2007, which allows local governments to prohibit guns on municipal property. All these are sensible bills to protect the safety and well-being of all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Dallas