

Statement of Testimony in Support of Oregon HB 2006

From Lynne Schauble, Corvallis, Oregon

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Oregon HB 2006 will save lives!

It is easier in the United States of America for an 18 year old to buy a gun, than it is for a new Mom to buy formula to feed her infant. This reality is reflective of where we have placed our values in America. However, my values are centered around the health and safety of my children and grandchild. I know this to be true of all of my Oregon friends and neighbors as well. State representatives in Oregon need to represent their constituent's values by passing laws that serve to keep our American elementary school children safe in their classrooms and in their communities. You are stewards of public safety by being lawmakers.

While you evaluate rationale for determining age limit to purchase/possess a firearm, please inform yourself that "The rational part of a teen's brain isn't fully developed and won't be until 25 years of age". In fact, recent research has found that adult and teen brains work differently. Adults think with the prefrontal cortex, the brain's rational, decision-making part. (urmc.rochester.edu).

The connections between the emotional part of the brain and the decision-making center are still developing in teens and young adults – and not always at the same rate. That's why when teens and young adults have overwhelming emotional input, they can't explain later what they were thinking. They weren't thinking, as much as they were feeling. And now more than ever, they have "big" feelings. Their world is a constant stream of stimulation, having free and unlimited 24/7/365 access to the internet, which is a minefield of negative content. With the click of a mouse, an emotional teen can purchase an assault rifle and have it delivered to their doorstep within a day or two.

Please make Oregon safer for our children and vote to approve HB 2006.