

March 19, 2023

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State House of Representatives
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HOUSE BILL 2006 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Wallen, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Debbie Lindgren and I am a retired educator, parent of two daughters and a lifetime Oregonian. I am writing to express my support for HB 2006, which would prohibit persons under 21 years of age from possessing firearms with specified exceptions and prohibit persons from transferring certain firearms to a recipient person knowingly, or reasonably should know, is under 21 years of age.

The United States has become a nation of gun survivors, directly and indirectly. America's gun death rate is tragic and unique.

- Gun violence is now the leading cause of death for American children and the second leading cause of death for children in Oregon.
- Nearly **79%** of gun deaths in Oregon are suicides.
- In Oregon, the rate of gun suicide increased **22%** and gun homicide increased **135%** from 2012 to 2021, compared to a **19%** increase and **73%** increase nationwide, respectively.
- The rate of gun deaths has increased **37%** from 2012 to 2021 in Oregon, compared to a **39%** increase nationwide. This means that in 2021 there were **227** more gun deaths than in 2012.¹

These statistics highlight the critical need for this bill. The effects of gun violence extend far beyond these casualties-gun violence shapes the lives of millions of Oregonians who witness it, know someone who was shot, or live in fear of the next shooting.

I advocate for responsible gun ownership while keeping guns out of the wrong hands or immature hands to help create a culture of gun safety. HB 2006 is a path forward to address this issue. It allows for people over the age of 21 to make the decision to own a firearm and the steps to be responsible for it. The bill also allows for the family tradition of hunting to still take place with people under 21. My family has many members who are gun owners and participate in hunting.

I am grateful for your committee considering gun violence safety measures to keep Oregonians safe. I urge you to advance this HB 2006 out of committee and continue to support it until it becomes law.

Debbie Lindgren
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

¹ <https://everystat.org/#Oregon>

