

Submitter: Judith Sanders  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2006

Chair Kropf, Vice-chairs Andersen and Wallan, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB 2006 and urge you to support it as well. This bill prohibits persons under 21 from possessing most firearms (with exceptions for sporting activities) and is a step in the right direction of increasing safety from gun violence.

Gun violence is sadly frequently perpetrated by those under the age of 21. In 1999 the US Department of Justice reported that in 1997, offenders age 18, 19, and 20 ranked first, second, and third in the number of gun homicides committed. Of all gun homicides where an offender was identified, 24 percent were committed by this age group, which is consistent with the historical pattern of gun homicides over the past 10 years. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/gun-crime-age-group-18-20>). A more recent analysis shows that 18-20 year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rates of adults 21 and older. <https://everytownresearch.org/report/how-can-we-prevent-gun-violence-in-schools/>.

Gun violence among young people also includes suicides. A Boston University School of Public Health found that state policies that limited the sale of handguns to those aged 21 or older were associated with an 18-percent reduction in the suicide rate among 18-to-20-year-olds. <https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m2436>.

Greatly limiting the possession of firearms by persons under the age of 21 will help protect the safety of everyone in Oregon so I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Judi Sanders