

Submitter: Peter Kokopeli
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2007

Re: Testimony in support of House Bill 2005, House Bill 2006 and House Bill 2007

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

My name is Peter Kokopeli and I am writing to urge your support for House Bills 2005, 2006 and 2007 as they are critical gun safety policies that will prevent violence and save lives.

I live in a multi-generational household. When my daughter was growing up on the way to school she picked up a bullet lying on the sidewalk. She asked me what it was. How do you answer that question? How do you explain to a third-grader why a bullet is lying on a sidewalk near an elementary school?

I want to live in a place where I don't have to answer that question for my grandson.

Safety is essential for a thriving community. Schools, grocery stores, workplaces and houses of worship should be safe spaces to learn, work and gather. But every year, there are more mass shootings and other gun-related violence in our communities.

In November, Oregonians voted to make our communities safer by passing Measure 114. While the gun lobby has blocked Measure 114's implementation in federal and state courts, more work can be done in the Legislature to protect our communities. HB 2005, HB 2006 and HB 2007 are three such policies.

A ghost gun is a homemade, untraceable gun that can be purchased with no background check. These guns are increasingly a weapon of choice for gun traffickers and people prohibited from possessing firearms. Prohibiting ghost guns by passing House Bill 2005 could save lives and ensure all gun purchases are tracked and take place only with a background check.

Research shows that individuals aged 18-to-20 years old commit gun homicides at a rate nearly three times greater than adults 21 or older. Passing House Bill 2005 and raising the age to purchase and own semiautomatic rifles to 21 years old could prevent violence and save lives.

And local jurisdictions like cities and counties should have the authority allowed under HB 2007 to protect public safety by prohibiting guns in official government

buildings if they so choose.

Passing HB 2005, HB 2006 and HB 2007 will make our communities safer places to live, work, learn and play. I urge you to vote yes.

Sincerely,

Peter Kokopeli
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