

Submitter: Bethany Wofford
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2005

Dear Chair Kropf and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of HB 2005 as a parent and a volunteer with Moms Demand Action, a grassroots movement fighting for gun safety. I live in a neighborhood in NE Portland that has had so many shootings in broad daylight that I am afraid to let my ten year old daughter walk to her friends' houses. I refuse to accept that her future and her freedom should be curtailed by our society's failure to enact common sense gun violence prevention laws. I live in a home where firearms are securely stored, unloaded, in a locked safe. Even though I grew up in Texas, and I know many responsible gun owners and hunters, I have also seen the finality of gun violence firsthand. My cousin was taken by gun homicide. He was at a party, and someone who was intoxicated and angry went into their bedroom and grabbed a gun and attempted to shoot everyone at the party. My cousin stopped him, but lost his life. I believe that we can put the value of human life and our right to walk through life without constantly wondering if yet another mass shooting is about to happen, above the complexity of implementing laws that will reduce gun violence.

To be honest, I can't even believe I am having to write a letter to my state Legislature encouraging you to make ghost guns illegal. It was unfathomable to me why they weren't already illegal before I started reading about all the violent crimes and mass shootings they have been used in, and now I am just baffled as to how this is even an issue to debate about. It seems self-evident that the target audience for untraceable guns without a serial number or a background check are violent criminals. Ghost guns show up in mass shootings, crimes committed by people who could not otherwise purchase a firearm, minors and other people who should not have access to any weapons, let alone one they printed on a 3D printer or put together in their garage. There is no logic to denying law enforcement the tools that they need to stop the flood of these weapons in our state.

I also support other gun violence prevention legislation to allow local governments to regulate firearms in sensitive areas, and raise the minimum age for purchasing semi-automatic weapons to 21. I believe these are reasonable common sense actions that will move us in the right direction and I ask for your support. I want nothing more than for my child to grow up in a culture that acknowledges the inherent dangers of guns and takes responsibility for addressing the violence we currently face every day.