

Submitter: Claire Shim
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2006

As a constituent, attorney, and mother, I strongly urge lawmakers to support the passage of HB 2006. I truly believe this is the most significant immediate step the legislature can take to protect our children and save Oregonian lives. It is unbelievable that under current law, an 18-to-20-year-old in Oregon can buy assault weapons and other semiautomatic rifles—even though they cannot legally purchase handguns, or alcohol for that matter. Oregon law treats anyone under the age of 21 as a "minor" to whom adults cannot provide alcohol, in order to protect that minor from the harmful potential effects of alcohol consumption. How can it be that under current law, Oregon allows these same minors to not just possess, but purchase, military assault weapons with vastly more harmful potential - immediate, fatal harm to these minors and others in their communities. It cannot be the case any longer that the law recognizes and protects minors from the dangers of consuming alcohol before the age of maturity, but leaves them completely vulnerable to the dangers of weapons literally designed to kill as many people as possible on the battlefield, and which have now been turned on our children in their classrooms, our grandparents in the grocery store, our neighbors at holiday parades. How have we failed our children and our communities so thoroughly in this area? The data backs up common sense here, and demonstrates that adolescents aged 18 to 20 years old commit gun homicides at a rate nearly 3 times greater than adults 21-and-over. Please protect our children and communities by supporting HB 2006 to raise the age to purchase and possess semiautomatic rifles to 21 years old.