

Submitter: Faye Melius  
On Behalf Of: MOMS Demand Action  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2005

March 19, 2023

In Support of House Bill 2005

House Committee:

My name is Faye Melius. I am a retired nurse, a mother and a grandmother. I have lived in Marion county for over 35 years. This text is focused on HB 2005, which is sponsored by Representative Reynolds. It is a bill that is authored to prohibit the manufacture of ghost guns and other untraceable firearms in Oregon. This bill will rectify a lack of ruling that allows the makers of ghost guns no restriction on the possession, manufacture or use of ghost guns.

Any homemade gun made from parts purchased with no serial identification is the essence of "ghost guns". As Oregon has no restrictions on this form of weaponry, federal rules must be used to regulate their use and manufacture in Oregon. To emphasize this point, in 2023 federal agents raided the house of a man in Salem and found 68 ghost guns, along with dozens of unserialized gun parts. A similar situation occurred in Eugene OR this year as well.

Online sellers have tapped into this large market and have become one-stop shops for parts, tools, and how-to guides that help people easily make these guns. The sellers market and promote their products as having the ability to evade Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) regulations. In less than the time it takes to watch a sitcom these weapons become fully functional and untraceable arms. These facts allow ghost guns to increasingly be the weapon of choice for gun traffickers and people who are prohibited from legally possessing firearms.. Nationally more than 2,500 ghost guns were connected to criminal activity in 114 federal cases from 2010 to April 2020. This is assuredly an even larger number now..

Oregon lawmakers should support HB 2005 which would help save lives by prohibiting undetectable and untraceable firearms and require background checks for purchases.

I would also like you to know that I am in support of raising the age for purchase and possession of semi automatic firearms (HB 2006, Representative Evans.); requiring schools to notify families about secure storage of firearms (SB 551, Senator Sollman.); and HB 2007, which would allow local governments to regulate firearms in

sensitive areas (Representative Reynolds and Senator Manning Jr.). Please help Oregon decrease the criminal use of firearms for the safety of our neighborhoods.

Thank you for your conscientious review of these gun safety issues.

Faye Melius  
Salem Area Lead  
Everytown and MOMS Demand Action.