



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 22, 2023

To: Representative Jason Kropf, Chair, [House Committee on Judiciary](#)

Re: [HB 2005](#) – Relating to undetectable firearms - **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports HB 2005 based on our gun safety and violence prevention positions. We believe it is the responsibility of government to regulate the ownership of firearms and to curtail the proliferation of unregulated firearms, which pose a threat to our health and safety. This bill clearly defines the terms “undetectable firearm,” “untraceable firearm,” and “unfinished frames or receiver” and details the range of fines and sentencing guidelines for the manufacturing, importing, and transfer of such firearms, frames, or receivers.

Current loopholes in the law, along with advances in technology, have made it increasingly easy for individuals to assemble their own firearms, ranging from simple handguns to assault-style rifles. For example, all it takes to make an AR-15, at half the price of a fully assembled model, is a DIY kit, common household tools, and a few spare hours. In one internet search, Everytown uncovered a sample of 80 sellers offering unfinished frames and/or receivers that could easily be converted to functional firearms. In recent years the number of sellers has grown considerably, and sales are skyrocketing. To speed up assembly time and facilitate mass production, consumers are now offered specialized jigs, computer numerical controlled machines, and complete 3D printer instructions.

Because these guns have no markings that can connect them to their maker, seller, or original owner, they are extremely popular with those who are legally prohibited from owning guns. A huge online industry has been created to serve the demand for firearms that are not subject to background checks, do not have serial numbers, and cannot be traced when recovered at crime scenes. Law enforcement officers report that unserialized weapons are now being recovered at crime scenes with increasing frequency. In March of 2022, a federal raid turned up a “massive” ghost gun manufacturing operation in Salem, and four months later sheriff deputies seized 100 guns from a ghost gun operation. In Springfield.

Our firearm background check system can only work effectively if we close gaping loopholes that allow many to bypass the system entirely. It is time that Oregon joins the 12 other states that have banned or restricted ghost guns, including our neighbors Washington and California. The League urges passage of HB 2005, and we thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Becky Gladstone
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marge Easley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marge Easley
LWVOR Action Committee