

Submitter: Amie Wexler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2006

HB 2006 - oral testimony (and will submit it written)
Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Walan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Amie Wexler and I'm the volunteer State Legislative Lead for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I have been volunteering with Moms Demand Action since the shooting at Umpqua Community College in 2015. I am an attorney and a mother of two, including an 18 year old senior at Grant High School in Portland.

My testimony today concerns HB 2006 which would raise the minimum age to purchase a semi-automatic rifle from 18 to 21 years old. We know that teenagers' brains aren't fully formed and that they are unable to make decisions that consider the ramifications of their actions. This committee has acknowledged as much and taken age into account as a factor when it is treating juveniles in our justice system. We must make the laws regarding gun purchasing match what we know about brain science and the data showing who is committing more gun homicides.

In addition, large gun sellers in Oregon in the wake of the shooting in Parkland, Florida attempted to raise the minimum purchase age on their own to match both the sentiment of their customers and their companies' values. Dick's Sporting Goods and Walmart both raised the minimum purchase age for AR-15 style weapons in 2018. These store policies were found to be violative of Oregon's age discrimination laws and the stores were ordered to lower the purchase age as a result. For five years we know that large, big-box sellers and common sense has said that guns don't belong in the hands of those under 21 and that was blocked by this legislature's inaction.

I ask you to now fix that error and raise the minimum purchase age to 21. This will prevent weapons of war from being in the hands of those who are unable to foresee the consequences of their actions.

I additionally ask you to pass HB 2005 to ban the sale of ghost guns. These untraceable and undetectable firearms should not be readily available for those who would otherwise be prohibited purchasers. And, please pass HB 2007. We know that school districts from across the state, including in places like Pendleton, Philomath, Siuslaw, and Umatilla, to name a few, have banned concealed carry weapons from school grounds. City and county buildings should also be able to ban guns from these sensitive areas.

Thank you for taking my testimony today and for taking action to protect Oreognians from gun violence.