

March 21, 2023

To: Rep. Jason Kropf, Chair, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Karin Radtke, Yachats, Oregon

Subject: Support HB 2005, HB 2006, HB 2007

I have been active for the past ten years in supporting several Bills that have now become Oregon law. These include background checks for gun sales, secure storage of firearms, the red flag alert, and others that all help to reduce the risk of innocent people losing their lives or being severely injured because a bullet was fired from a gun and entered their bodies with tremendous force and in the right location to cause death.

Today, the unbelievable is a fact: the number one cause of childhood deaths in the United States of America is a bullet entering the body.

Dear legislators, please don't let your rational thinking skills be clouded by 27 words that were written 232 years ago about "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms". That was a long time ago! An Amendment can be amended, repealed, or whatever is necessary to reflect the will of the people **today**.

You must surely be aware that a majority of Oregonians **today** support sensible gun safety laws, including the ones before you this session:

HB 2005 (Prohibit ghost guns and other untraceable firearms)

HB 2006 (Raise the age for purchase and possession of semiautomatic firearms)

HB 2007 (Allow local governments to regulate firearms in sensitive areas)

Please note:

In my experience, and from comments to me in the past from legislative aides, **supporters** of gun safety Bills are mostly not loud and mean and threatening - they **often do not speak up in public** these days because (you guessed it) they are afraid of someone in the room carrying a concealed weapon, or someone tracing and threatening them and their family.

Therefore, you can be sure that one testimony for these Bills reflects the support of many, many more "silent" Oregonians.

Thank you,
Karin Radtke