

My name is Zicra Lukin and I live in Portland. I'm writing today in support of HB 2006, which would prohibit people under the age of 21 from possessing firearms, with reasonable exceptions.

Given that we are in the midst of both gun violence and youth mental health crises, restricting access to firearms for younger people is common sense - especially since we now understand the pre-frontal cortex, responsible for skills like prioritizing and making good decisions, doesn't fully mature until the mid-20's. Limiting access is particularly important as a tactic in reducing suicide by gun, which has a lethality rate of over 90%. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, mere access to a firearm triples the risk of death by suicide.

As a parent who worries about the safety of my two teenagers and their friends, I fully support HB 2006, and am certain it will lead to healthier, safer communities for all Oregonians, but especially for our young people.