

Submitter: Whitney Bernhisel  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2006

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to ask you to support House Bill 2006, which would raise the age to purchase and possess semi-automatic rifles to 21 years old. The rise in gun violence is deeply troubling, and this bill is an important action that will increase the safety of our communities.

Research shows that individuals 18-20 years old commit gun homicides at a rate nearly three times greater than adults 21-and-over. Just last year, in my neighboring community of Bend, a 20-year-old walked into a Safeway and shot and killed two people. He had purchased his AR-15 legally. It is greatly concerning and alarming that citizens have easy access to assault and semi-automatic rifles, and the lack of legislation on this matter opens the door for these dangerous weapons to fall into the wrong hands.

Raising the age to purchase and possess semi-automatic rifles is essential to preventing future tragedies stemming from gun violence. I urge you to move quickly in support of House Bill 2006 as I believe it will provide proper safeguards that will increase the safety of our communities. Thank you.