

Submitter: Brandy Steelhammer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2007

Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

As a mom, social worker, and life-long Oregonian who has lost 5 loved ones to gun violence (all in Oregon), I am writing to urge your support of HB 2007. We are living through a perilous time, with political violence and gun violence causing a great deal of division and fear in the United States. Every day, 120 Americans are killed with guns and more than 200 are shot and wounded (www.everytownresearch.org). Shamefully, guns are the leading cause of death for American children and teens (https://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/od/directors_corner/prev_updates/gun-violence-July2022).

It's estimated that there are 446 million firearms in the US, meaning that for every 100 citizens there are 120 firearms (<https://americangunfacts.com/gun-ownership-statistics/>).

Local governments know their communities best. They know the undercurrents of local discord and possible unrest. They should have the ability to keep guns out of sensitive areas rather than being required by the state to allow guns. As we've learned from watching American political unrest recently, government buildings and courthouses are often targets for violence. For the sake of public safety, as well as to protect American democracy, guns should be prohibited in these areas, even for concealed carry permit holders.

From John Hopkins University: MYTH: MORE GUNS IN MORE PLACES WILL MAKE US SAFER.

FACT: "If firearms everywhere made us safer ... we would be the safest place in the world," Crifasi said in an episode of Public Health On Call.

"We have more guns than people in this country, yet we are the only country that continues to experience exceptionally high rates of firearm homicide and fatal mass shootings occurring with regularity." (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2022/debunking-myths-about-gun-violence>).

Our families and communities are counting on Oregon lawmakers to use sound research to protect us from gun violence. The research is clear. The "guns everywhere" agenda is putting Americans at risk. A simple google search of "Do guns make us safer?" will lead to many articles debunking this deadly myth. Please support HB 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brandy Steelhammer, LCSW