

Submitter: Audrey Zunkel deCoursey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2006

House Committee on the Judiciary
March 22, 2023
Re: HB 2006

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary;

I write in support of HB 2006. As a parent, PTA board member, and a person of faith, it is important to me that Oregon do all it can to prevent gun violence. Every step to save lives matters.

Raising the age for the general public to access firearms is a sensible safety measure. Reasonable exceptions are made for military, law enforcement, and corrections needs. Just as we expect greater responsibility from adults consuming alcohol at age 21 compared to age 18, restricting access to firearms until age 21 makes sense. Too many mass fatalities have been committed by 18- and 19-year-olds, and while this measure alone will not prevent all harm, it takes an important step forward.

Reducing gun violence in our country will take all of us working together. Gun owners must do their part to demonstrate responsibility. Lawmakers and community leaders must ensure our laws protect children and other vulnerable populations. Unfortunately, we have seen the sad reality play out in our communities, with Oregonians dying from acts of mass violence, from suicide, and from accidents with lethal weapons. We need our thoughts and prayers to motivate action for common sense gun safety today.

Please support HB 2006 for a safer future.

Rev. Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey
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