

Submitter: Allison Bernaldez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2005

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and Members of the Judiciary House Committee, my name is Allison Bernaldez and I am writing in support of House Bill 2005, relating to firearms. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony about why it is critical to support the prohibition of undetectable and untraceable firearms in Oregon.

I am a parent of three young children. Gun violence in the United States has always been frightening to me, but it's become exponentially more worrisome since becoming a parent. Knowing that firearm-related injuries became the leading cause of death for children and adolescents in 2020 (1) causes me to lose sleep at night. I make sure to give my kids a hug and a kiss and tell them that I love them every morning before they go to school, primarily because the thought is always in the back of my head that there are countless numbers of parents in this country who have sent their kids off to school and they never got to see them alive again. There are far too many school shooting incidents to name here, and that has left a permanent pit in my stomach.

Ghost guns are made from easy-to-get building blocks that can be obtained with no background check and no questions asked. Oregon currently has no laws that restrict or prohibit ghost guns, and last year, federal officials raided the home of a man in Salem and found 68 ghost guns, along with dozens of unserialized frames and receivers (2).

I hope we can count on you to help save lives by prohibiting undetectable, untraceable firearms which never go through a background check, by supporting HB 2005.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Allison Bernaldez

(1): <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2201761>

(2): <https://www.oregonlive.com/crime/2022/03/salem-man-accused-of-selling-homemade-ghost-guns-and-trafficking-fentanyl-in-exchange-for-guns-feds-say.html>