

Submitter: Martha Stiven  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB2006

March 22, 2023

Chair Kropf and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

My name is Martha Stiven, I am a lifelong Oregonian, the mother of four adult children and grandmother to my seven grandchildren. The catastrophic impact of gun violence has left scars on my older grandchildren, ages 18, 16 and 13. Active shooter drills have been part of their childhood. My God, there is even a name for such drills, Active shooter! My fear is that such drills have become normalized and the effort to make their childhood safe has become less probable. My four younger grandchildren have not yet had to experience the fear of active shooter drills at the ages of 5, 5, 3 and 2 and I pray daily the we get this epidemic of gun violence under control before they too are scarred by the fear.

To that end I am writing to you today in support of HB 2005, HB2006 and HB2007. House Bill 2006 raises the minimum age to purchase a semi-automatic rifle from 18-21 years of age. We are talking here about semi-automatic rifles, which have no business in the hands of anyone, let alone anyone younger than 21. We know the data behind gun homicides, and we must adopt laws that are aligned with what we know about who is committing more gun homicides. In 2022 there were over 600 mass shootings, and so far this year, there have been at least 100. This bill is a step in the right direction, and I implore you to do what is sound and reasonable to protect my grandchildren in their colleges, high schools and grade schools from these deadly weapons.

I am also asking you to support House Bill 2005, the bill to ban ghost guns. What reason does anyone have to carry a gun that cannot be detected or traced by the tools we use today? Nor should these ghost guns be available to anyone who would otherwise be prohibited from purchasing a gun.

Finally, I ask you to pass House Bill 2007 which prevents concealed carry weapons from being brought into sensitive places like city and county buildings and surrounding grounds. We know that Oregonians want gun owners to keep their guns at home and not anywhere where children may gather.

Before retirement I was a land use planning consultant for 30 years and appeared at many public hearings before City Councils and Planning Commissions all of which were open to the public. Never did I fear that someone may have brought a gun with them to a hearing and may retaliate against someone in the room. I'm not sure I

would feel the same way today. Please pass HB 2007 which would help keep our public spaces safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my request and I implore you to take action to keep my family and all the families of Oregonians safe.