

Submitter: Donna Bleiler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1503

I OPPOSE SB 1503

New CDC data doesn't support this bill. It shows a three-year decline in youth suicides (24 and younger) in Oregon, with fewer total deaths and a lower rate in 2019, 2020, and 2021. 53% of that declining number is by firearms. Oregon saw a 14% drop in suicides among people ages 24 and younger compared to the year prior, with 102 deaths in 2020. You remove the drug addicted and the numbers go way down.

This bill is misplaced. Concentrate on correcting Measure 110 and you'll decrease those wanting to commit suicide and the need for violence - isn't that the goal? The use of guns for violence or suicide is simply a tool that can be switched out for a knife or rope. Guns shouldn't be the focus. Any tool of violence can be obtained illegally if the desire is there, so focus on behavior modification and the driving force to use any tool.