

Submitter: Walter Mintkeski  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1503

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support SB 1503, the Task Force bill on gun violence prevention and firearm suicide prevention.

I am a father and grandparent of four school aged children. I am very concerned about their safety in this age of mass shootings and teenage suicides.

Over the past decade, gun related deaths have increased by 40% in Oregon. Every year, our state loses close to 600 Oregonians to preventable firearm deaths. Black Oregonians are roughly 10 times more likely than white people to die by firearm homicide. And the firearm suicide rate in rural Oregon is 2.5 times higher than in urban areas and the state's veteran suicide rate is 37% higher than the national average.

As a strong supporter of SB1503, I urge the Task Force to prioritize prevention efforts that are centered around those most impacted by gun deaths and shootings, as well as firearm suicides. I urge the Task Force to analyze and prioritize ongoing, sustainable funding for efforts for prevention work that is making the most meaningful, equitable impact, both for homicide and suicide prevention.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 1503.