

Submitter: Kathleen Beland
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1503

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today in support of SB 1503, the Task Force bill on gun violence prevention and firearm suicide prevention.

I am a retired educator who studied and wrote on violence-prevention, a grandparent, and an Oregonian active in my Mt. Tabor community.

For over a decade in the late 70's and 80's I lived in a central Seattle neighborhood that experienced gun violence, and I witnessed its deadly effects on neighboring teens and their families. During that time, a kindergarten student at my children's school died after handling a gun found in his uncle's closet. I want to help halt and prevent this same trend in Oregon communities.

I strongly support the SB1503, Task Force bill, and 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 the opportunity to submit my testimony on this issue.

Kathleen Beland
Portland, Oregon