

Submitter: Charles Engelberg  
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.

As a parent, and soon-to-be grandparent ??, I am very concerned about the safety of school children (and their teachers and administrators); I believe the ease with which guns are obtainable, particularly by young men under 21, increases the risk of school shootings dramatically.

Every year, we lose 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.

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 your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Charlie Engelberg, Lake Oswego