



**Oregon Chapter  
American College of  
Emergency Physicians**

**Date: March 11, 2025**

**To: Rep. Thuy Tran Chair  
Rep. Dacia Grayber Vice Chair  
Rep. Rick Lewis Vice Chair  
Members of the House Emergency Management, General  
Government and Veterans Committee**

**Subject: HB 2538 CE Requirements regarding lethal means counseling**

Chair Tran, Vice Chairs Grayber and Lewis and members of the committee, please accept this testimony on behalf of OR-ACEP, the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. OR-ACEP is a medical society that has represented physicians specializing in emergency medicine since 1971 and its members share a commitment to improve emergency healthcare for all Oregonians.

OR-ACEP shares the goals of the sponsors to prevent gun violence but has concerns with HB 2538 as written. This bill directs the Oregon Medical Board to require physicians and physician associates to complete continuing education regarding lethal means counseling.

The chapter opposes requirements to put continuing medical education or specified training in statute. Screening patients for suicide ideation is routine in the emergency department and part of the daily work in taking care of patients in crisis. This includes, screening for lethal means and working with law enforcement to remove access to weapons if necessary. Emergency physicians are well-trained to provide this care. This subject is covered by the American Board of Emergency Medicine core content sections of training and competency. ABEM and all other certifying bodies do practice analysis to determine science-based CME. There are already hospital requirements to take behavioral health CME just to stay privileged, not just what the boards require for certification. The training, as proposed, is both redundant and burdensome.

We understand there are amendments to amend the cultural competency requirements in statute to have an optional training on lethal means counseling. OR-ACEP will be neutral on this bill with those amendments.

Emergency physicians are happy to engage with gun violence prevention advocates to talk about solutions and improved approaches to shared goals but ask that the mandate in the bill be removed.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Chapter President-** Christian Smith, MD, FACEP

**Chapter Executive-** Sierra Acker

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