

Submitter: Anna Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Hello, my name is Anna Johnson and I urge you to pass HB3075 to make sure Measure 114 goes into effect smoothly and quickly. Measure 114 is already the law. Oregonians came together to pass it, and lawsuits paid for by an out of state gun lobby have prevented the the law from going into effect for almost 2 years. In that time, CDC data shows ~1,200 Oregonians have died from gun tragedies.

I grew up in rural Washington County in the 90's and was exposed to guns from a young age, as my family was involved in hunting and trap shooting. My late grandfather taught me to shoot and made sure I knew about gun safety and responsible gun ownership. The extremist narratives of the gun lobby are a far cry from the practical messages I learned from my family growing up. I also remember learning about Columbine for the first time, and how for a very long time that terrible tragedy felt like an outlier. I can't imagine what it would be like to be a student now, trying to focus on my future while the lives of so many of my peers have been cut short by more and more school based mass shootings. These horror stories have become the norm rather than the outlier.

And it's not only happening in schools—increasingly it feels like nowhere is safe. Every time I go to the grocery store, movie theatre, concert, or any public place I think about the possibility of death by gun violence. We should not have to live with that fear over our heads when there are practical things we can do to prevent these tragedies and make us safer. The gun lobby should not be able to steamroll over the will of the people of this state with their fanatical devotion to guns at all cost. That is not the ethos my family taught me, and is not the mentality I carry as a responsible gun owner today. It is time to honor the will of the people and ensure that no one else has to die needlessly because gun extremists value power and profits over people. Please pass HB3075 today. Thank you.