

March 9th, 2025

Dear Oregon Legislators,

I am here to voice my opinion of the upcoming 2025 legislative agenda for making our communities safer and preventing firearm injuries. I am advocating for this out of my own volition and have no financial disclosures related to this matter.

I am a dual-board certified Interventional and Diagnostic Radiologist with experience in large urban and smaller community hospital systems in and outside of Oregon. This legislative agenda is very personal to me on both a professional and personal level.

As an Interventional Radiologist, we are vascular specialists and do numerous minimally invasive procedures related to either opening blocked blood vessels or treating bleeding blood vessels. Naturally, we are an integral component to any trauma healthcare delivery system. We are routinely called in from home overnight or on weekends to do procedures when patients are critically ill and in life-threatening emergencies particularly when patients are too ill to undergo surgery - we are a crucial adjunct to care that most people are unaware of. Given my expertise, I have been privy to the direct effects of gun violence in the communities I have served. I can recount numerous patients I have treated who have suffered from the effects of gun violence in their communities with life-threatening solid organ, pelvic, and/or vascular injuries that require my expertise.

As a Diagnostic Radiologist, I am responsible for reading imaging studies (CT, MRI, Ultrasound, and X-rays) and providing a concise summary of my findings to other physicians. Working at prior Level 1 trauma centers, I have directly seen devastation that firearms cause. Seeing how bullets effortlessly ping-pong through the internal organs with a blast injury wake trailing behind brings only one word to mind - **carnage**. It is heartbreaking to meticulously list every single body part that is affected by a single, let alone multiple bullets to appropriately communicate these findings to the trauma team. Not only do we see the immediate effects when a patient is recently injured, but we see the lasting effects of retained bullet fragments inside the body, these scars are only the tip of the iceberg as psychological scars are present as well. As physicians, we have to compartmentalize our own emotions because, if not, the pain of these devastating attacks which **we know are preventable** would hinder us from taking care of our next patient.

On a personal level, I was in middle school when the Columbine High School massacre occurred, and I still remember that day vividly. At that time we would never have imagined there would be another Columbine and let alone the number of school/public massacres that have happened since then. Now, with three school-age kids of my own, it is honestly something I think about every single time I drop them off at school and I know I am not alone in this sentiment. This undercurrent of trauma in our lives leads to unnecessary distrust, isolation, and crumbling of American values in our society. I cannot imagine the pain that these parents of the children murdered by preventable gun violence have to live through. Especially because prior lawmakers have consistently supported the firearm

industry over the average American family and their constituents, but not today because I believe there is a better path forward.

This scourge in modern American history is appalling and must be addressed. We are currently living in a **public health care crisis due to gun violence**, particularly in children and adolescents where it is now the **leading cause of death** in this age-group. We should all be ashamed of this statistic, no matter where you reside on the political spectrum. The time is now to make a difference. As someone with personal experience, there is no better thing than to serve your community and directly save lives - as lawmakers, this is your opportunity to do just that. I am urging you to stand up for your community, our future generations, and our humane ethos by supporting common-sense gun reform.

I am writing to you in my official capacity as a physician who is completely dedicated to public service, just like yourselves, but I am also writing to you as a parent and human-being. Common sense gun reform should be the highest priority in the legislative session to save lives. I urge you to vote in favor of SB203, SB429, HB3076, SB696, SB697, and SB698. I hope this will be just the beginning of a modern era of putting American families first through similar future reforms.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alex Dabrowiecki, MD RPVI
Interventional and Diagnostic Radiologist