

Submitter: Susan Weedall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

Dear Representatives Kropf, Chotzen, Wallan, Andersen, Mannix, Chaichi, Lewis, and Tran,

I urge you to support HB 3076,

I became a community volunteer dedicated to preventing gun deaths and injuries following the devastating tragedies at Sandy Hook, Parkland, and Uvalde. Today, I find myself in despair over the almost daily reports of gun violence plaguing not just Portland, but our entire state.

What shocked me most during my advocacy work was discovering that Oregon gun dealers operate without any state regulation or inspection. Data shows that many crime guns recovered in our communities can be traced directly back to Oregon dealers. These weapons are regularly finding their way into the hands of minors and prohibited persons with felony convictions.

While some Oregon gun dealers diligently follow best practices, relying solely on an honor system has proven ineffective at stemming the flow of illegal firearms. This isn't speculation - it's evidenced by the weapons continually appearing in crime scenes across our state.

State regulation of firearms dealers isn't experimental. Data from states with dealer licensing systems demonstrates meaningful reductions in illegal gun trafficking and associated violence. This approach has a proven track record.

As a licensed physical therapist, I've never questioned Oregon's requirements that ensure I practice safely. My credentials, facility, and practices are regularly monitored. It's reasonable to expect that gun dealers - whose products can have life-or-death consequences - should face at least the same level of oversight as my local hair salon owner.

Passing HB 3076 represents a crucial first step toward implementing common-sense regulations that will make Oregon safer while respecting responsible business practices.

Thank you.

Susan Weedall