

March 17th, 2025

Re: Testimony in support of House Bill 3076

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallen, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Hannah Alzgal and I serve as the Housing Justice and Community Safety Policy Coordinator for Unite Oregon. I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 3076. It is a critical policy that will prevent firearm tragedies and save lives.

Unite Oregon is a grassroots, community-based organization made up of and led by immigrants and refugees, communities of color, people experiencing poverty, and rural communities. Our membership expands across the state with chapter-bases in Washington County, Clackamas County, Multnomah County, and across the Rogue Valley. At our annual action summit, our members overwhelmingly voiced concerns about the need to reimagine community safety from the traditional criminal justice system. What we advocate for is a world of safety that is not predicated upon the tools of militarism, surveillance, and incarceration.

All of us should be safe from violent gun crimes in our neighborhoods, no matter our race, income, or zip codes. Just as food safety rules at restaurants and hygiene requirements in nail salons work to keep us healthy, we ought to have gun shop regulations to keep us safe.

Holding gun dealers to basic standards of safety and theft prevention is critical to the broader effort to prevent gun tragedies and protect our communities.

We must stop the flow of guns being used for crime in our communities. Gun dealer licensing is a proven solution to violent gun crimes that has already been passed in 17 states. Research shows gun dealer licensing reduces gun diversions for criminal activity by 60% and homicides by almost 40%.

Today, the ATF is only inspecting Oregon gun dealers once every 57 years and even when they are found to have significant violations they are not being shut down. Gun dealers play a critical role and should be held responsible to foster a culture of responsible gun dealing, purchasing, and ownership.

Passing HB 3076 will make our communities safer places to live, work, learn and play. I urge you to vote yes.

Sincerely,

Hannah Alzgal

Unite Oregon Housing Justice and Community Safety Policy Coordinator