

Submitter: Courtney Dern
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Courtney and I am a mother of two young children, one of whom is a student in Portland Public Schools and one who will be soon. Every year, when I meet his teachers, I find myself wondering if they would take a bullet for my child. I hold it together during our polite introductions, but when I get back to my car, I usually cry—because I know that this is not just a hypothetical fear. It is a real and growing possibility.

I should not have to wonder if my child's teachers are prepared to die at work. They should not have to carry that unspoken burden. And yet, year after year, we allow the flow of illegal guns into our communities to go largely unchecked.

Less than 2% of Oregon's 2,000 gun dealers were inspected last year, even though nearly half of inspections uncover serious violations—like selling guns without background checks or failing to report multiple sales. Meanwhile, more than 6,000 crime guns were recovered in Oregon last year, and nearly 75% of them were traced back to Oregon gun dealers. We know where these guns are coming from. We know that states with gun dealer licensing have seen gun trafficking drop by 70% and gun homicides fall by 36%.

We inspect food carts, salons, and nail shops to ensure they meet health and safety standards. Yet the industry responsible for the deadliest consumer product in our society is barely regulated. That is unacceptable.

As a parent, I want my children—and their teachers—to be safe. We must stop the flow of illegal guns into our communities. HB 3076 is a simple, common-sense step to ensure gun dealers follow basic business standards. I urge you to pass it.

Thank you.