My name is Megan Perkins and I am the Mayor Pro Tem in the City of Bend. I am writing in support of House Bill 3075. Oregonians passed this law over two years ago because we know it will save lives. The research is clear, over a 10 year period, Measure 114 is projected to save more than 1000 lives in Oregon. This is one of the strongest and most effective gun tragedy prevention measures in the country, and it's critical that it goes into effect without further delay

No community is safe from gun violence, including my own. In just my last four years on Council, we have had a middle school student bring a loaded gun to school, a shooting in a Safeway grocery store that killed two people and injured two more plus the death of the shooter himself, and a Black man was shot and killed in downtown Bend after a disagreement over a woman at a bar. While Measure 114 and requiring more stringent rules for permit-to-purchase may not have stopped any of these incidents from occurring, we know that gun prevent makes a different in the future safety of our community and it is essential to implement any tool we have as quickly as possible.

In 2023 alone, we lost 650 Oregonians to firearm suicides, community violence, and mass shootings. Oregon's rural and veteran suicide rates are double the national average. Oregon also has the 5th highest rate of gun deaths for Black men in the country. 58% of all Deschutes County deaths among 10-17 year olds were suicides, compared to 29% in the state of Oregon. 65% of Deschutes County youth ages 10-17 died by suicide via firearm. These numbers are not just statistics-they represent lives lost, families shattered and communities like mine left grieving.

Measure 114 is a critical tool to reverse these disturbing trends. Oregonians voted for this law because we know it will save lives. Now it's up to you to ensure the state has the resources and infrastructure to support a smooth implementation.

I urge you to vote yes.