

Submitter: Catherine Qin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075
Catherine Qin

Monday, March 17, 2025

In support of HB 3075, relating to permit-to-purchase processes

Almost five years ago, I was starting my freshman year at Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego, Oregon. Just a few months earlier, on February 14, 2018, the Parkland shooting unfolded while I sat in my social studies class—two thousand six hundred miles away. Even from that distance, I felt it. I remember joining the nationwide school walkout condemning the shooting. We stood together in the middle of the school field. There were giggles mixed into the morning breeze. What was meant to be an act of solidarity and protest became an excuse to skip class and chat with friends. But beneath the surface was something heavier: a growing numbness.

I grew up practicing lockdown and lockout drills, sometimes sandwiched between English class and lunch. By first grade, it was routine. I remember how the kids who usually cracked jokes fell silent during those drills. We all did. We sat still, holding our breath. We were waiting for the crackle of the loudspeaker permitting us to return to “business as usual.” Minutes later, the classroom buzzed again with laughter and conversation, as if nothing had happened. As children, we were ignorant of everything happening around us. We didn’t understand the world we were growing up in, but we could feel its weight. We didn’t pay the rent or worry about bills, but we saw the stress in our parents’ faces. We knew something was wrong.

In December 2018, there was a gun-related incident at Lakeridge High School. A former student came to campus to fight a current student. The school went into lockout. Police later found a .380 semi-automatic pistol and ammunition in the car of an unnamed student. I was there. Classes continued. Life went on. It was business as usual—both that day and in the days that followed. And yet, when I sat down to write this, I had to Google “Lakeridge High School guns” just to realize it even happened. Think about that. A loaded firearm was found on my high school campus, and I almost forgot. That’s how normal this has all become. And that’s exactly the problem.

Gun violence has become so normalized. In another world where gun violence wasn’t an everyday threat, I would remember that day vividly. I would remember being terrified for my life and for my friends. I would remember the feeling of being a bystander, helpless as danger loomed nearby. But in this world, it was just another

day. Most people didn't even know why we suddenly went on lockout. We were lucky that time. The situation didn't escalate. But luck is not a safety plan.

What if the school hadn't gone into lockout? What if that gun had been brought into the building? What if one student made a different decision that day? We often brush these thoughts aside as paranoid. They're not. They're real possibilities. We were spared, not because the system worked, but because luck was on our side. Not everyone is that lucky.

It shouldn't be a privilege to feel safe at school, the grocery store, or a movie theater. It shouldn't take surviving a shooting to make someone think twice about the presence of an active shooter. Yet too often, it does.

We cannot continue leaving people's lives and peace of mind up to chance. We have the power to do better. My name is Catherine Qin and I am a third-year undergraduate student at Oregon State University, Corvallis Campus. I am urging you to vote in favor of HB 3075. This bill will implement a permit-to-purchase process in Oregon, ensuring that only responsible individuals can obtain firearms. It is a vital step toward reducing the reckless use of guns that leads to tragedy and heartbreak in our communities. This is about protecting lives and giving every Oregonian the chance to feel safe—without depending on luck.