

Eli Du

Saturday, March 15, 2025

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

My name is Eli Du. I am a junior at Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego, Oregon, and a member of my city's Youth Leadership Council. I am here today to testify in support of HB 3075, to make permit-to-purchase measures more feasible.

I was only in middle school when another student brought bullets to school. While that student was removed from the school for months, they eventually reentered my life indirectly.

When they returned to school, a friend of mine –whom I greatly respect– confided in me that they felt unsafe being on campus during school because of the incident connected to that student, and they were worried that they might try to escalate from what they had done in the past. While we were lucky to avoid an active shooter, many others across the country and within our state are not as fortunate.

As of February 7th, just 38 days into the new year, four school shootings have already been reported across the United States. Oregon alone has had 17 mass shootings since 2020, with gun violence being the second leading cause of death for children in our state.

As high schoolers, analysis done by the Pew Research Center shows that we are consistently at the greatest risk for a school shooting. Thus, we often feel the most unsafe knowing that firearms and their ammunition can be so readily accessed by our peers.

It is not difficult to imagine the various ways in which that student might have gained possession of ammunition for a firearm. It is also not difficult to imagine that more responsible storage of the ammunition would have prevented the incident, and that the students in the school would never have felt unsafe or under threat that day.

It is painfully obvious that permit-to-purchase processes hold the key to creating an Oregon with *responsible* gun owners who store their firearms and ammunition properly, reducing the risk of reckless use that leads to serious harm and distress throughout our community, and in our schools. For the safety and peace of mind of our students, I urge you to vote in favor of HB 3075.