

Submitter: KD Parman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

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

My name is Dr. KD Parman, and I am the Principal of Roosevelt High School in North Portland. I am here to support HB3076 - to establish a state gun dealer licensing program. It is critical policy that will prevent firearm tragedies and save lives.

I have been an educator for 22 years. 18 of those years, I have served the North Portland community as a teacher, coach, and now an administrator. I have seen, first hand, the negative impact on our community because of the far too easy access to guns.

We have seen an increase in gun related deaths in North Portland since returning from the Pandemic.

The summer of 2021, we had our first student murdered by gun violence. We had three more students shots during the 2021-22 school year. One was shot at night in our back parking lot. Luckily, all three students survived.

In March of 2023, three young men were murdered on a neighborhood street in North Portland at 12:30 in the afternoon. They were shot more than 50 times. One victim attended Roosevelt and another was a recent graduate.

In August of 2023, one of our students was shot six times. Again - luckily - he survived. Another student was shot four times in the spring of 2024. He lost an eye, but he survived.

I, unfortunately, have lost count of the recent graduates that have been murdered or injured by gun violence. I do know our Black students are disproportionately impacted by these shootings. I also know this gun violence, whether it affects a student directly or not, is having a major toll on all of our students.

We have students whose houses are being shot up and their families are trying to relocate to ensure their safety.

Each of these events is tragic, and the emotional toll on our community - staff, students, and parents - keeps adding up. Students, staff, and community members ask what we can do to help slow the gun violence. One way we can slow gun

violence is to establish a state gun dealer licensing program. This is why I support HB3076. Regulations on gun shops will help keep our communities safe.

There are too many guns out there and kids have far too easy access to them. I say kids because there are indeed kids - 12, 13, 14 year olds - posing with guns and other weapons in photos and videos on social media. Guns are in our communities and in the hands of our youth. Without intervention, these guns will move through our schools and communities and continue to cause devastating consequences for our kids, schools, teachers, and communities. One way we can address this problem is by holding gun dealers to basic standards of safety and theft prevention. This is critical to the broader effort to prevent gun access to youth, prevent gun tragedies and protect our communities.

I am advocating to establish a state gun dealer licensing program to address the current realities of our post-pandemic world. Gun licensing is a proven solution to violent gun crimes that has already been passed in 17 states. Gun dealer licensing reduces gun diversions for criminal activity by 60% and homicides by almost 40%.

We need to prioritize long term committed solutions that ensure there is proper oversight of our gun dealers. Gun dealers play a critical role and should be held responsible to foster a culture of responsible gun dealing, purchasing, and ownership. I urge you to support HB3076 : our kids' and students' lives depend on it.

Thank you.