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

Hello my name is Jean Carlton, thank you Chairman Kropf, vice chairs, Senator Broadman and Committee members for your time and attention and for your service. I am testifying in support of HB3076, State Gun Dealer Licensing. I would like to talk about gun dealers in our neighborhoods. It is not acceptable that specific policies requiring gun dealers to track inventory or implement specific storage requirements are not yet law in Oregon. The federal government is definitively not there for us- Federal Firearms License holders can expect to be inspected, at current rates, less than once per decade. And despite this low rate, several dealers in Bend have been cited. Data shows that the result is higher homicide, higher suicide and higher gun violence rates in our communities.

Here is why I am so concerned and even frightened- I live in Bend. There are more than 60 licensed gun dealers in Bend 61% of these are at residential addresses where hundreds of guns may be stored with no specific safe storage requirements. There are many examples of ongoing and increasing theft from dealers across Oregon. Residential license holders do not need to notify neighbors or place signage indicating that they can sell or manufacture guns in their homes. One in five public elementary schools is within half a mile of a gun dealer. Do any of us want this in our neighborhoods?

In Deschutes county firearm was the most commonly used method of suicide and suicide death rates are almost twice the national average. Firearm suicide rates have been shown to be more than 3 times higher in cities with the highest firearms dealer rate. These findings should direct us to engage and regulate dealers as suicide prevention partners.

And here's a personal experience: in a recent meeting with community members about gun safety, 2 employees of a local chain store spoke up to say that it is a usual occurrence for them to sell weapons to what clearly appears to be a "straw buyer" but they had no support to prevent the sale or even to report their observations. By projection, this is happening on a regular basis across Oregon. I would ask our legislators to better protect our neighborhoods and take action to establish a state gun dealer licensing program by passing HB3076.