



# Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: March 19, 2025

TO: Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan,  
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Claudia Henriquez Lopez, MD, FAAP

SUBJECT: Support for House Bill 3076 – Firearm Dealer Licensing

My name is Claudia Henriquez-Lopez; I am a pediatrician and member of the Oregon Pediatric Society (OPS), the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am also an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Oregon Health & Science University, serving as a Pediatric Hospitalist in several hospitals of the Portland metro area. I write in strong support of Senate Bill 3076, which will direct the state of Oregon to establish a firearms dealer licensing program.

Gunshot injury is the leading acquired cause of mortality in the United States pediatric population. Approximately 5,000 children and adolescents are killed by firearms each year. Nonfatal injuries are twice as common as fatal injuries, although using a firearm with a suicide attempt is almost always fatal.

Gun dealerships can play an important role in preventing the purchase of weapons by prohibiting buyers – such as those who are underage or have a history of violence – and stemming the flow of guns from legal to illegal markets. It is estimated that 40% of gun transactions in the US are performed by unlicensed dealers, in which background checks are frequently waived, or in Oregon, handguns could be sold to buyers younger than 21. Therefore, regulating and inspecting licensed dealers for compliance plays a crucial role in crime prevention and decreasing pediatric deaths.

As a pediatrician, I have witnessed how gun violence does not just impact children directly involved in a shooting. The subsequent fear and mental trauma that occurs in children from nearby communities, especially after mass shooting events, can lead to anxiety, depression, stress disorders, and physical illnesses in children who now fear attending school or participating in public spaces. The resulting isolation and lack of social interaction compounds social and emotional dysregulation.

I urge you to vote for SB 3076 and prioritize children's and public safety.