

Submitter:

Drishti Singh

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB697

My name is Drishti Singh and I am a junior at Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego, Oregon. I love being involved in my community by participating in our Youth Leadership Council and acting as a student representative on the local school board.

Today I am here to ask for support of SB 697, which would ban firearm ownership for those under 21.

In the last four years, my community has been devastated with 4 suicides, one each year. A 15 year old high school football player in 2021. 2022, a youth football coach, the father to 3 of my classmates. 2023, my conditioning and training coach for high school softball. And 2024, a recent graduate from my high school.

Two-thirds of suicides in Oregon are completed with a firearm.

I keep hearing people around me say "Not one more". I've heard this 4 years in a row. I've attended too many candlelight vigils and celebrations of life in these past 4 years. The grief my community feels from the loss of these beloved, joyful, and "life of the party" individuals- those we never imagined would complete suicide- is immense.

Limiting youth access to firearms would prevent further tragedies and grief. Not one more life should be lost in Oregon due to easy access to a firearm.