

April 3rd, 2025

HB 3884 to the House Committee On Judiciary

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallen, and Honored Members of the Committee:

My name is Steve Schneider, and I live in Eugene. I am submitting this testimony as a lifelong firearm owner and as a Firearm Suicide prevention professional with Alliance for a Safe Oregon. I'm here today to support the facts and purpose behind HB 3883.

I am also speaking on behalf of many Oregon gun owners, including combat Veterans like myself, who DO want to see this and other gun-safety related bills move forward. Gun owners are not a monolith, and there are many thoughtful, engaged, and responsible gun owners who DO want these bills to succeed, because they are addressing real gaps in our society. The intent of these bills is to save lives while protecting our Sacred 2nd amendment right, and it *is* possible to do both.

Much of the written opposition clearly does not understand what this bill (and others such as HB 3076) is all about, so I encourage my fellow Oregonians to take a pause. Most gun owners who come to understand the underlying purpose will agree with this bill. The same goes for state gun dealer licensing, which is trying to fix the lack of inspections and mechanisms to hold bad dealers accountable— not to put FFLs 'out of business' as the opposition incorrectly assumes.

HB 3883 is not a gun control or anti-gun bill. It's the opposite. The bill intends to study how to protect gun shops, friends, family, and good samaritans who provide out-of-home, temporary firearm storage from being held liable for the actions of an individual after they come to pick up their firearm. These are called *firearm hold agreements*.

Temporary, out-of-home firearm storage is a common and encouraged practice for someone who is at higher risk for suicide. The National Shooting Sports Foundation recognizes that the majority of gun deaths in Oregon and across the US are suicides- over 70 people a day nationally. This is a fact, not a political opinion. Secure firearm storage is an evidence-based approach to reducing access to firearms by someone who might use them for acts of harm, which tend to be very impulsive. Most people who cannot access their preferred method of suicide DO NOT go on to find another method.

As someone who has lost close friends and family to suicide, this issue is personal. Not just because of those I've lost, but because of the people I love whose *lives have been saved because they put time and distance between themselves and their firearm*. Everyday, lives are saved because of responsible firearm owners who habitually practice secure storage and who support out-of-home storage.

Out-of-home storage is a smart choice for someone going through a mental health crisis, for a family going on a long trip, or for those folks living with another person at high risk who simply want to reduce the firearm factor from a tense situation.

We need to study this issue so that FFLs and Oregonians know exactly what to expect and how to go about this process properly without fear of reprisal. Please support this bill.

Thank you,
Steve Schneider