

Testimony in Support of HB 3884

Submitted to the House Committee on Judiciary

April 2025

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

My name is Hyon Chol Kahng, and I'm submitting testimony today in strong support of HB 3884. I am an NRA-certified firearm safety instructor and a Precinct Committee Person with the Multnomah County Democrats. Oil and water? Maybe. But shake vigorously and you can get vinaigrette—and that's what Oregon needs more of: thoughtful, well-balanced approaches that combine rights with responsibilities.

In my work, I teach safe and responsible firearm handling to a wide range of people across Oregon, including many in the BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized communities. I do this because I believe everyone deserves access not just to their rights, but to safety, education, and the tools to protect their loved ones and themselves—especially during moments of crisis.

HB 3884 is a voluntary, evidence-informed step in the right direction. It allows federal firearms licensees to temporarily hold firearms at the request of their owners—creating time and space between a person and their firearm when it matters most. This is not a gun control bill. This is a suicide prevention bill. A community care bill. A practical bill.

We already use work-arounds when someone is at risk: disassembled guns, cable locks, parts handed off to friends. But the legal murkiness makes it harder, not easier, for responsible gun owners to do the right thing. HB 3884 clears a path for licensed dealers to safely hold firearms without being punished for returning them later—unless they're clearly negligent or ignoring imminent danger.

And let's be real: firearm suicide is the leading cause of gun deaths in Oregon. Not gang violence. Not home invasions. Suicide. When we talk about gun safety, we must include suicide prevention. Voluntary storage outside the home has been shown to reduce suicide risk—and HB 3884 supports that practice while respecting the agency and dignity of gun owners.

This is what responsible gun ownership looks like: not paranoia, not punishment, but preparation and compassion.

I urge the committee to support HB 3884. Let's show that Oregon can lead with both courage and common sense.

Respectfully,

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