

Testimony in Support of HB 3074 – PEARSON MD
House Committee on Judiciary
April 5, 2025

Chair Kropf and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is **Dr. Jill Pearson**, and not only am I a board-certified pediatrician currently living in Silverton with 25 years of experience in caring for children and I grow ever-concerned about increasing violent behavior of kids with guns, but I also have a personal story that heightens my support of **HB 3074** to increase the use of Extreme Risk Protection Orders in Oregon.

Like most Americans, I have watched the escalation of gun violence in our country, and more specifically, events that take place on school campuses. Four specific school shootings shook me because of the proximity to where I grew up, or in towns where I lived and cared for children in the community. Those four events were as follows:

- **The Thurston shooting in 1998** (one hour north of the town where I would start my first practice the following year)
- **The Columbine shooting in 1999** (nine miles from the high school I graduated from in 1986)
- **The Roseburg High School shooting in 2006** (4 minutes from where my daughter was in preschool, 8 minutes from where my boys attended junior high school, 4 minutes from my office)
- **The Umpqua Community College Shooting in 2015** (2 years after I moved from the area)

On a more personal note, one which few people know about, I went through a scary divorce and separation in 2008, during which time I requested and was awarded several restraining orders. The request was spurred by comments made by my now ex-husband, threatening to shoot me, our son, and himself.

According to the Gun Violence Archive (GVA), 2023 saw the highest number of murder-suicides using firearms on record, 682. As of April 5, 2025, there have already been 152 murder-suicide incidents involving guns.

As a single mom of 4 children, my youngest still in high school, and a pediatrician that has personally and professionally been impacted by the escalating gun violence over my career, I adamantly support detailed background checks for sale and transfer of guns to not only save lives but ensure safe communities since domestic violence continues to be a serious and challenging public health problem. **Please support HB 3074.**

Thank you for your time and commitment to addressing this urgent public safety issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jill Pearson
Board-Certified Pediatrician

