



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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### **Oregon House Democrats Pass Landmark Legislation to Prevent Gun Violence**

*Senate Bill 554 requires safe storage of firearms, allows public schools and college campuses to prohibit firearms*

SALEM, OR— Today, the Oregon House passed groundbreaking gun safety legislation to reduce the risk of shooting deaths in Oregon.

[Senate Bill 554](#) makes a number of changes to Oregon firearm statutes. The bill requires that a gun be stored safely, with either a cable lock, a locked storage container, or in a gun safe. Failure to do so would result in a \$500 fine, which would increase to \$2000 should the unsecured firearm be obtained by a minor. The firearm must also be locked in a storage container or with a cable lock when an individual transfers a firearm. Additionally, if a firearm is lost or stolen, the owner would have 72 hours from when they reasonably should have known it was lost or stolen to report it.

SB 554 also addresses gun free zones, allowing the boards of public universities, community colleges, and school districts to prohibit concealed carry of firearms on campuses. Boards would be allowed to opt into these programs. Additionally, the State Capitol would also be designated as a gun-free zone.

“This policy respects the rights of gun owners while reflecting the best research available,” said [Rep. Rachel Prusak](#) (D-West Linn). “I’m a survivor of gun violence. Having made it through a difficult and dangerous situation, I know the terror that lies in those moments. I am here to elevate the voices of those who have experienced that too. This policy will prevent others from traumatizing experiences and save lives. This session, lawmakers should finish what they started last year and pass a secure storage law to protect our communities and children from unintentional shootings and gun suicides.”

“Unsecured firearms are a significant contributor to firearm related deaths in Oregon, particularly suicide,” said [Rep. Janeen Sollman](#) (D-Hillsboro). “This bill isn’t going to strip anyone of any gun rights. It will not make it more difficult to purchase a firearm. The goal is to reduce access to firearms from people, especially children, teens, and young adults, who would use them to harm themselves. Every Oregonian should want these protective measures.”

“In my exam room, I ask families if their guns are locked in the homes of my young patients,” said [Rep. Lisa Reynolds](#) (D-SW Portland). “It is up to us, the adults, to keep children safe. According to the #NotAnAccident Index, which tracks unintentional shootings by children since 2015, nearly 350 American children under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else each year — equaling almost one unintentional shooting per day. Over 1,100 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member.”

“Gun owners like myself enjoy our second amendment rights, but we do have a duty for responsible care, storage, and operation of our firearms, just like we do with our vehicles,” said [Rep. Dacia Grayber](#) (D-Tigard). “I will never forget the first time I had to work what we call a ‘trauma code’ on a child as a result of a gunshot wound. He had the same blond hair as my son, and had he not been accidentally shot in the face by a friend, maybe I would have seen a resemblance there as well. I will never know, because it was my job to take what was left and try to create a viable place to deliver oxygen. His friend had found the gun under the bed while they were playing. One child died that day, but countless lives were irreparably changed, including my own.”

“Guns have no place in our schools and in our democracy,” said [Rep. Andrea Salinas](#) (D-Lake Oswego). “After armed extremists descended on the Oregon State Capitol in December, we need to ban guns from the Capitol, and we need to allow schools to prohibit firearms on their property to prevent gun violence. Data shows at least 85 instances of armed protesters and incidents involving guns at protests in state capitols from May through December 2020. It is unacceptable.”

“It is unacceptable that we force gun violence survivors to so frequently relive their trauma when there is and has long been a solution on the table,” said [Rep. Winsvey Campos](#) (D-Aloha). “Firearms are the second-leading cause of death among children and teens in the state, with an average of 29 firearm deaths every year. 68 percent of those deaths being firearm suicides. No one should have to live through the trauma my colleagues, constituents, and fellow Oregonians have gone through. It is past time to make these changes.”

“SB 554 is a public health approach to the public health crisis of gun violence,” said House Majority Leader [Rep. Barbara Smith Warner](#) (D-NE Portland). “As someone who has introduced and fought for safe storage and other gun violence prevention legislation since I joined the legislature, I am proud of the work the House Democrats have done to finally pass this landmark achievement that will protect every Oregonians from gun violence.”

SB 554, which passed 34 to 24, will now return to the Senate for a concurrence vote.

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