

**DEB PATTERSON  
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL  
DISTRICT/DISTRITO 10**



**OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON**

March 25, 2021

TO: Lori Brocker, Secretary of the Oregon State Senate

CC: James Goulding, Publications Coordinator

RE: Vote Explanation for SB 544

Chief Clerk Brocker,

I voted "Yes" on SB 554 and wish to explain my vote.

I fully support our US Constitution, including each of the amendments. I was raised in a household with guns and am part of a family in which hunting, and fishing are valued. I believe Oregonians have a unique relationship with firearms that center on respect and responsibility.

I also take the mass shootings that our country has seen in recent years and even in recent days in Colorado and Georgia very seriously. We cannot sit idly by as mass shootings in places like schools continue to take the lives of hundreds of Americans, every year. Importantly, this bill allows local jurisdictions to decide whether they want to allow firearms in or around public buildings like schools.

This is not a mandate nor, in my view, is it an expression on my opinions on the Second Amendment but rather an expression of my support for allowing local voices to make decisions that work for their community. I believe we need to take reasonable steps to keep Oregonians, particularly our students, safe from gun violence and this gives local jurisdictions the ability to make that decision, if they so choose.

I am committed to supporting reasonable gun safety laws that protect both the Second Amendment and protect the lives of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deb Patterson".

State Senator Deb Patterson  
District 10