



Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership  
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The Board of Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership (GOFRO) thanked members of the Oregon Legislature for passing safe firearm storage legislation today.

“It has been eight years since our family members and friends Steve Forsyth and Cindy Yuille were murdered at Clackamas Town Center with a gun that had not been safely stored,” said Paul Kemp, GOFRO President. “Passage of this bill will encourage all gun owners to secure their firearms when not in use and other families will not be at risk from those who would do harm to themselves or others.”

Senate Bill 554 establishes the responsibility of gun owners to safely store a gun when it is not under their control and report when a firearm is stolen or lost. It establishes civil fines and liability caused by failure to observe the law.

“If the firearm that was used to kill my mom and Steve had been locked and stored securely, they would be alive and with us today,” said Jenna Yuille.

Most gun owners already store their firearms securely. There are a wide variety of readily available gun storage devices that can prevent children or unauthorized persons from obtaining a firearm but also provide gun owners rapid access if necessary.

With passage of SB 554, Oregon joins 11 other states and the District of Columbia with a safe firearm storage law. SB 544 requirements will help keep children from accessing a loaded, unlocked firearm. Studies have shown that states with safe storage firearm laws have seen reductions in youth suicides and youth firearm injuries. Gun owners who securely store their unloaded firearm are less likely to die from firearm suicide

SB 554 also authorizes local elected school boards and public universities to decide whether to prohibit firearms in their public buildings. “Nothing in this bill would impair the use of firearms for hunting, target shooting, collecting or for self-defense in the home if necessary. Firearms should never be used to intimidate or threaten our fellow citizens or those like teachers who are serving the public in their daily jobs,” said GOFRO board member Tom O’Connor.

“We at GOFRO believe that with rights, come responsibilities,” said Paul Kemp. “We believe SB 554 can help encourage a culture of responsible gun ownership that will help reduce gun violence.”