From:	Melissa Chureau
To:	DeJong Annola
Subject:	Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 700
Date:	Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:26:00 PM

Dear Chair Prozanski and members of the committee:

My name is Melissa Chureau, and I am a mother and professional from southwest Portland. I am also a member of Moms Demand Action because action for gun sense in Oregon and America is the most important action we can undertake to protect our families and other citizens from senseless violence.

State legislators should **adopt Bill 700** to close the private sales loophole so criminals and other dangerous people are prohibited from buying guns.

This current loophole allows the very people who should be prohibited from buying guns to buy them and use them for violence. Owning a gun has been linked to higher risks of homicide, suicide, and accidental death by gun. For every time a gun is used in self-defense in the home, there are 7 assaults or murders, not to mention 11 suicide attempts, and 4 accidents involving guns in or around a home.

Consider the story of Zina Daniel, a mother who was murdered by her husband in October 2012. Although Zina had a restraining order against her husband, he was able to exploit the private sales loophole and buy a gun on the internet without a background check.

In fact, In 2010, nearly 6 times more women were shot by husbands, boyfriends, and ex-partners than murdered by male strangers.
• A woman's chances of being killed by her abuser increase more than 7 times if he has access to a gun.
• One study found that women in states with higher gun ownership rates were 4.9 times more likely to be murdered by a gun than women in states with lower gun ownership rates.

The argument that “criminals will find a way so why bother” is nonsensical. To subscribe to that viewpoint is tantamount to agreeing we should not bother with any laws at all because there will always be someone who is willing to break them. But we must, so that loving mothers like Zina can live out their life and see their children grow.

Connecticut is on its way to passing sweeping laws to protects its citizens--Connecticut bothers. Shouldn't we?

The 2nd Amendment doesn’t trump common sense or public safety. Our most fundamental right is that of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Please adopt Bill 700. Gun sales loopholes of any kind must be permanently closed to protect our families and other citizens.

Thank you,
Melissa Chureau
Mom. Wife. Lawyer. Member of Moms Demand Action.