

April 3, 2013

Senate Judiciary Committee  
State of Oregon  
900 Court St. NE  
Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 700

Dear Chair Prozanski and Committee Members,

My name is Oliver Tatom and I am a resident of Clackamas County. I am also a paramedic and I have witnessed first hand the consequences of gun violence. Like all traumatic injuries, gunshot wounds can be prevented. Unfortunately, too many of our fellow Oregonians advocate what public health professionals refer to as *tertiary* prevention. This would include any measure that relies on a "good guy with a gun" to stop a "bad guy with a gun," and the concept is akin to preventing a motor vehicle collision after the car has already skidded out of control.

Instead we need to focus on *primary* prevention. This starts with background checks for all private firearm sales. While background checks alone are not sufficient to stop gun violence, just as brakes alone cannot prevent motor vehicle collisions, they are absolutely necessary. Without background checks, no other gun safety measure can be effective.

As a paramedic, as a father, and as an Oregonian who loves my great state, I implore you to pass Senate Bill 700. It will save lives.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oliver Tatom', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Oliver Tatom  
Jennings Lodge, OR  
Senate District 020  
House District 040