

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 700 and 347

Dear Chair Prozanski and Committee Members,

My name is DeEtte Waleed. I live in Portland. I used to be a high-school and junior high teacher, and I have great-grandchildren in the public schools in Oregon. After the massacre at Sandy Hook school, I am concerned for their safety. The shooting at Clackamas Town Center brought the reality of unregulated guns too close to home. We have too quickly forgotten the school shooting in Springfield not that many years ago.

SB 700 just makes good sense. There cannot be any logical reasons why we should allow anyone to buy a gun without a background check. We don't allow people to drive without a license. Certainly a gun is more dangerous than a vehicle. Children died at Sandy Hook and at Springfield because unstable people could easily get their hands on guns. If you fail to require background checks to buy a gun – for EVERYONE to buy a gun – then you are responsible for the next shooting. And there will be a next one. Do you want their blood on your conscience?

SB 347 would keep guns out of our schools. Our children have common sense. They know that guns are dangerous. Seeing a gun in a school puts fear into the classroom. No child can learn well in an atmosphere of fear. We don't need guns in schools to protect children; we need to keep guns out of schools to protect children.

The NRA's position only protects gun manufacturers. Their primary interest is in selling more guns. The Second Amendment should not be perverted to protect the profits of gun manufacturers.

Peace,
DeEtte Waleed