



Testimony in Support of SB 347 and SB 700

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Senate Committee on Judiciary

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Oregon Nurses Association

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association in support of SB 347 and SB 700

ONA represents over 12,000 nurses who work in a variety of settings throughout Oregon. From large medical centers to small clinics, to county health departments, and correctional institutions, Oregon's nurses serve a wide array of patients, each with unique needs.

In many of these settings, Oregon Nurses see the impact of gun violence on their patients. As the largest segment of the health care work force and Oregon's front line health care providers, nurses are there to help patients and family members cope with the physical, emotional, and psychological effects of gun violence. As health care providers, Oregon's nurses understand that gun violence is a public health crisis and believe we must do something to curtail gun violence and the devastating impact gun violence has on our communities.

The Oregon Nurses Association's Health Policy Platform includes a focus on prevention, and indeed, nurses understand and champion prevention, whether prevention of chronic disease, environmental hazards, trauma, interpersonal violence, or preventable accidents.

This focus on prevention of interpersonal violence, trauma, and preventable accidents has led ONA to take a position in support of SB 347, which will help keep guns out of schools, and SB 700, which will require background checks for private gun sales. Both of these measures are commonsense steps that can help decrease incidents of gun violence in our communities and help keep Oregon's children safe.

ONA urges you to support SB 347 and SB 700.