Oregon State Senate Judiciary Committee Re: Support for State Senate Bills 700, 347, and 796

To Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

Like most of my friends and neighbors, I have been paying close attention to the national conversation on gun violence since the Newtown, Connecticut tragedy. I'm writing as an educator and a local citizen, but mostly as the father of two young children who have a right to be safe.

For most of my life, I have been apathetic about guns and violence. But I'm a parent and, like most parents, I will not put anything ahead of the safety of my kids. I simply don't accept the notion that we as Oregonians are helpless to create policy that strikes a better balance between preserving individual freedom—including the freedom to own some types of firearms for hunting, or for self-defense—and protecting the safety of our children and the general public.

We are not helpless. Let's work together for sensible solutions. I strongly support:

- Senate Bill 700, which requires background checks for private firearms sales;
- Senate Bill 347, which gives school districts the authority to prohibit guns in Oregon public K-12 schools;
- Senate Bill 796, which requires firing range training for those applying for a concealed handgun license.

Sincerely,

D. A

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