From: Carol Yahner
To: DeJong Annola
Subject: Written testimony in support of SB 700 and SB 347
Date: Thursday, April 04, 2013 10:15:04 PM

Dear Chair Prozanski and Judiciary Committee Members:

My name is Carol Yahner. I live, work and raise a young family in Eugene, Oregon.

In recent months I have paid close attention to the debate over whether there is any merit in banning weapons, legislating gun purchases, background checks, etc. For many years I have been concerned by our country's "culture of violence" and have witnessed firsthand how violence devastates lives in working with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

While I support the passage of both SB 700 and SB347, I am not naïve enough to think that these measures will solve our country's violence problems. It's such a multi-faceted problem that encompasses so much: the lack of mental health services, our state's poorly funded education system, our culture's desensitization to violence (via movies, video games, etc) and many more issues that are too complex to address in a single testimony. However, I do think that these measures will help in a small way to affect change even though they are perceived to trample on the "rights" of gun owners. I think the legislature needs to come to a moderate place on this issue and consider the "rights" of young children like mine that can go to school without fear and without guns on the premise, the "rights" of Oregon citizens that can go to the movies or shopping —knowing that slight safeguards have been put in place such as universal background checks.

Thank you for your time,

Carol Yahner