

RE: SB 1551

Chair Prozanski, Members of the Committee,

My name is Jenn Lynch, and I live in Northeast Portland. I'm here today as a representative of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a group that was founded the day after the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

I'm one of the tens of thousands of moms from all 50 states who woke up to the epidemic of gun violence on that terrible day in December, 2012. In the year since that shooting, I've spent my free time learning about gun safety legislation, organizing moms and lobbying lawmakers, not going to yoga and reading for book club. Today is a school day, and I should be at home, making almond butter sandwiches and doing drop-off, but here I am with all of you.

I'm here today to tell you to close the background check loophole in Oregon. I'm here on behalf of thousands of moms from across Oregon who were unable to juggle a Judiciary Committee hearing with childcare. I'm here because the moms I know are mystified as to why their representatives can't seem to hear that 80% of them – including 75% of gun owners – want this bill passed.

I am not a gun owner. In addition to my four-year-old daughter, I have two-year-old twin boys, whose "search and destroy" skills rival those of any Navy Seal team. Having a gun in our home, no matter how well-secured, is a risk that isn't worth taking for my family. And we don't have a swimming pool, either.

But to the other moms out there, the moms who are more afraid that a background check bill means creating a registry of gun owners that criminals will use to break into their homes and steal their family's handguns, I beg you to understand the facts of this law.

Records of successful gun sales are kept safely and in a manner that respects the buyer's privacy. Background check records are not subject to public disclosure—and law enforcement can only access dealer records during a criminal investigation. In other words, the State of Oregon does a better job of protecting your privacy than Target.

It's time for the excuses to end. It's time to shut down the Internet marketplaces that make it so easy for criminals, domestic abusers, and disaffected teenagers to buy a gun for cash, no questions asked. It's time to stop making policy based on imaginary threats of gun confiscation, and start making policy based on the real and present danger of unregulated gun sales.

Thank you. We are counting on you.