

Chair Prozanski, Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Jenn Lynch, and I live in Southwest Portland. I'm here today as a representative of the Oregon Chapter 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. Since our founding, Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety have grown to over 45,000 Oregon members.

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 years since that shooting, I've spent my free time learning about gun violence prevention legislation, organizing moms and lobbying lawmakers. I've also spent some of that time learning to shoot – I'm proud to say I passed my most recent handgun class with a perfect score.

Today is a school day, and I should have been at home this morning, making almond butter sandwiches and doing drop-off, but here I am with all of you, testifying in support of this bill.

I'm here today to ask 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 more than 80% of Oregon voters want a law requiring a background check on every gun sale.

Right now, Oregon law makes it far too easy for felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous people to buy guns without background checks. Right now, criminals can easily go online and connect with unlicensed sellers who are under no obligation to run a background check before selling them a gun.

Oregon needs to pass SB 941 and join the states that already require background checks on every gun sale – where 46% fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners and where 48% fewer law enforcement officers are killed with handguns.

SB 941 will keep guns out of the hands of criminals, and it will save lives. We are counting on you take this important and common sense approach to public safety.

Thank you.