

Hello, my name is Rebecca Cohen. I am a mother and volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

I'm here today to advocate on behalf of HB4147, which strengthens Oregon's background check system by giving law enforcement the tools they need to complete background checks and follow up on checks that fail.

I ask you to picture the following scenarios:

- Your blood test results aren't back yet, but since it's been three days, we'll just assume you don't have cancer.
- Your daughter ran a stop sign, but since her road test took longer than an hour, we'll issue her a Driver's License.
- We haven't completed your criminal background check yet, but since school starts tomorrow, we'll let you start teaching kindergarten.

Sounds ridiculous, right?

So why apply the same logic to something as important as whether somebody is legally prohibited from purchasing a gun?

When it comes to criminal background checks, we should give the process the time it needs. The background check system should be pass-fail. Felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous people shouldn't be able to get a gun with an "incomplete."

It was a proud moment last spring when Oregon became the 18th state to require criminal background checks on all handgun sales. Like many, I had no idea that there was a 3-day time limit on the background check process. Tragically, it took the murder of 9 churchgoers in Charleston, SC for many Americans to realize that this dangerous loophole even existed.

With rights come responsibilities. Oregon has a responsibility to its citizens to complete the background check process on every firearm sale.

Making sure these checks are completed—whether that takes less than five minutes, as is the case for 95% of percent of background checks, or longer—is the best way to ensure that a prohibited buyer cannot purchase a weapon.