

Good afternoon Chairman Barker and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of HB 4147. My name is Charlie McKenna and I live at 2330 Adams St in Eugene. I am the Eugene lead for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and no I am not a mom!

I, along with many other Oregonians worried about the epidemic of gun violence in our state, worked with you and the governor to pass the comprehensive background check bill last session. That was a tremendous accomplishment for Oregon; we know that law will save lives in our state, but we also know that the law can be made even better if HB 4147 becomes law too.

The gun lobby likes to say, “guns don’t kill people, people kill people”, and they are right. The comprehensive background check law and HB 4147 make it harder for people who shouldn’t have guns to purchase them. This bill is all about people, not guns. In working to pass the universal background check bill I talked to hundreds of Oregonians and none of them (well with the exception of one or two convicted felons) disagreed with the idea that bad people should not have legal access to guns. HB 4147 closes the “Charleston Loophole” and also gives law enforcement agencies a new tool to keep guns out of the hands of those we all agree should not have guns. This bill does not restrict access to purchase a gun by Oregonians who aren’t legally restricted from buying guns. It is possible a prospective legal gun purchaser would be delayed in buying a gun if their background check is delayed, but that will be rare and is much better than allowing a mass murderer like the Charleston killer to buy a gun they should not have been able to.

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