

RE: HB4147

Members of the committee:

My name is Kara Murray, and I am a mother of two boys, ages 12 and 7, and a business owner from Southwest Portland. I am also a member of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a grassroots organization working towards common sense gun reform. I have taken the day off work to ask you to pass common sense gun legislation. I speak for my friends and relatives, who were not able to be here today, due to work or child care schedules.

The murder of 20 children and 6 educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012 spurred me to act to prevent gun violence. The murder of 9 parishioners in the sanctity of their Charleston church this past summer was another shock to our collective conscience.

I am calling on State legislators to pass HB 4147 to close the so-called 'Charleston loophole,' which allows a gun sale to proceed after 3 days, even if the background check is incomplete. Our current background check system allows the clock to run out after 3 days— and that's how the Charleston shooter - a prohibited purchaser - got his gun.

HB 4147 also provides law enforcement with the information to arrest dangerous people who fail a background check, before they can buy a gun online or through another type of unlicensed sale.

This bill is about enforcing the law – plain and simple. It’s exactly what the gun lobby says we should do to stop gun violence – enforce existing laws – yet they do nothing to help. We agree that we should enforce existing laws and this is how we are trying to do something about it.

At least 16 states and Washington DC give authorities longer than three days to complete a background check. Last year, Oregon became a leader on gun violence prevention by becoming the 18th state to state to require criminal background checks on all handgun sales, and we once again have the opportunity to lead on this issue by passing HB 4147.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kara Murray

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