

Chair Barker, members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony. My name is Amie Wexler, I am here in support of House Bill 4147 as a member of Mom's Demand Action for Gunsense in America and as a concerned citizen. I live in Portland in Rep. Lew Frederick's district.

I am here today because like so many Americans, I watched in horror as news of the shooting in Charleston, South Carolina broke. The nine members of Emanuel AME Church's bible study group were murdered by a man who should not have had a gun. The killer sought to purchase a weapon legally and had to undergo a background check. In the state of South Carolina, as is currently the case in Oregon, if three days pass without a check being completed, the applicant is allowed to purchase their weapon without a completed background check. The shooter's application would have been denied because of his arrest on felony drug charges, had the FBI had time to uncover this information. This is unacceptable. We must close this loophole. There are too many times when a person attempts to purchase a gun in violation of their parole or a court's order and it endangers too many people when their purchase goes through without a background check.

Additionally, HB 4147 would notify law enforcement if someone has attempted to purchase a gun and they were denied because of their background check. I have worked with survivors of domestic violence who deserve to know if the person who was ordered to turn over their weapons to law enforcement is now trying to buy new guns.

Thank you for supporting commonsense gun legislation. The majority of Oregonians are with you.