

I am writing to you today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 797 (SB797).

I am a stay-at-home Dad of three young children and live in Sen. Courtney's district. I, like many, have been horrified when hearing the news of gun violence incidents both here in Oregon and across our Nation. Sadly, there are just too many to list.

What is not, however, so commonly discussed is the number of women in our community effected by gun violence within the assumed safety of their homes. Gun violence is a women's issue. The presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of the woman being shot and killed by 5 times. American women are 16 times more likely to be killed with a gun than in other high-income countries. These are basic statistics that should simply not exist.

SB797 will act to prohibit convicted stalkers and abusive dating partners from purchasing firearms. Lets act now to protect vulnerable members of our community here in Salem and across Oregon.

I urge this committee to bring SB797 to the floor for vote and would like my elected officials to consider voting YES on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Leon Widdall

Salem, Oregon