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Oregon State Legislature
Senate Judiciary Committee
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

As a law enforcement professional, I see firsthand how much damage gun violence does in communities. Every year, hundreds of lives are lost and thousands more are forever altered due to gun violence in Oregon. This includes law enforcement professionals – our friends and colleagues – killed or injured by gunfire in the line of duty.

Working at the local level in our communities and in our courthouses, I believe local government is doing its part to prevent further violence. Smart gun laws keep firearms out of dangerous hands and give law enforcement professionals important tools that aide in investigations and apprehension of criminals. However, more must be done to give each of us the tools to keep our communities safe.

Current Oregon law rightly prohibits certain dangerous people, such as felons, certain domestic abusers, and certain people with severe mental illness, from having guns. However, more needs to be done to strengthen current rules and uphold the basic principle underlying these laws. I am writing today to urge Oregon legislators to do their part to help end senseless gun violence.

If passed and signed into law SB 797, would address the following loopholes in Oregon's state gun laws:

- Protect women and children by prohibiting convicted stalkers and abusive dating partners from having guns;
- Require state officials to alert law enforcement when an individual prohibited from purchasing a firearm attempts to do so illegally and fails a background check. This provision would provide law enforcement with the information to stop dangerous people before they can obtain a gun through other routes.
- Close the "Charleston Loophole," which allows a gun sale to proceed after three business days, even if the background check is incomplete.

I support the rights of responsible gun owners and appreciate the balance that must be struck when crafting law that protect those rights while taking every step necessary to help keep our communities safe from gun violence. As a law enforcement professional, I believe SB 797, is a reasonable and necessary step forward and urge your support.

Respectfully,

Michael Reese
SHERIFF