



**Multnomah County Sheriff's Office**  
501 SE HAWTHORNE BLVD., Suite 350 • Portland, OR 97214

MICHAEL REESE  
SHERIFF

*Exemplary service for a safe, livable community*

503 988-4300 PHONE  
503 988-4500 TTY  
www.mcso.us

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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 public safety executive with more than twenty-five (25) years of experience, including four (4) years as the Portland Chief of Police, and now as an elected Sheriff, I have seen firsthand the incredible damage communities suffer as a result of irresponsible firearms use. As a result, I support SB 868, relating to Extreme Risk Protection Orders, because it aims to reduce self-harm among the vulnerable individuals law enforcement strives to protect.

SB 868, addresses a gap in Oregon law, by recognizing Extreme Risk Protection Orders; a court-issued, civil order that empowers families and public safety to work together to prevent gun tragedies. Family members are often the first to know when a loved one is in crisis. It is difficult to witness a loved one regress and engage in dangerous behaviors, thus necessary for family to have a meaningful next step when they are concerned about the risk of self-harm, or even the potential to hurt others, before any violence occurs. Through temporary prohibition on the purchase of new or dispossession of existing firearms, families and law enforcement officers have a valuable tool to intervene in complex and quickly evolving situations such as mental health crisis.

People experiencing a crisis may be at an elevated risk of suicide. Research shows that people are more likely to die by suicide if they have easy access to firearms. In fact, forty percent (40%) of all suicides within Multnomah County involve a firearm. Those in a suicidal crisis are much more likely to survive if they do not have easy access to firearms for the duration of the crisis.

Law enforcement knows all too well that mental health crisis, which could result in harm to self or to others, benefit from time and compassion. The Extreme Risk Protection Orders creates a moment for clarity and an opportunity to match an individual's need to available services. This tool would go a long way to reducing the incredible damage irresponsible use of guns does to our communities and to the vulnerable individuals in need of our assistance, while preserving due process and other constitutional rights.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 868, your leadership will save families, individuals, and support productive communities across Oregon.

Respectfully,

Michael Reese  
SHERIFF