

Good morning Chairman Prozanski and members of the Judiciary Committee; thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of SB 797. My name is Charlie McKenna and I live at 2330 Adams St in Eugene, which is in Sen. Prozanski's district. I am the Eugene lead for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and no I am not a mom!

I, along with many other Oregonians worried about increasing gun violence in our state, worked with you and the governor to pass the comprehensive background check bill in the 2015 session. That was a tremendous accomplishment for Oregon; we know that law has saved lives in our state, but we also know that the law will become even better if SB 797 becomes law too.

The gun lobby likes to say, "guns don't kill people, people kill people", and they are right. The comprehensive background check law, with the enhancements SB 797 will make, will help keep guns out of the hands of those who we all agree should not possess firearms. This bill is about keeping guns away from dangerous people, not infringing on the right of law abiding Oregonians to buy and own firearms. In my work with Moms Demand Action I talk to many Oregonians every month and there is near universal agreement that domestic abusers, stalkers, and persons who can't pass the background check should not have legal access to firearms. SB 797 closes some loopholes in our comprehensive background check law and also will alert local law enforcement agencies when a dangerous person commits a crime by trying to illegally buy a firearm. This bill does not restrict the ability to purchase guns by Oregonians who aren't legally restricted from buying guns.

There is an epidemic of gun violence in our nation and state and we in Oregon must work together to reduce gun violence. SB 797 will help reduce the risk of gun violence to some of our most vulnerable community members, namely victims of domestic abuse and those stalked by others, while not infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Thanks you,

Charlie McKenna
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Eugene