

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chair Prozanski, thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Amie Wexler, I am a member of Moms Demand Action for Gunsense in Oregon, a mother of two children, and a lawyer.

I have had a number of different careers with my law degree. Among them, I worked at Portland State University helping students with their legal problems for four years, from 2010 to 2014. I often found myself working with students who were the victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and unwanted attention. I helped many students obtain restraining orders against an intimate partner and stalking orders against persons who were persistently and threateningly harassing them. The judges I appeared in front of were rigorous in their questioning of the petitioners, ensuring that the person's fear was both subjectively real and objectively justified.

I can tell you, when the fear was most palpable was when the abuser was a gun owner, particularly if the gun was used as a part of the abuse. In those cases, these petitioners rightfully feared for their lives. The most dangerous time for a domestic violence survivor is leaving the abuser. Three out of four victims of homicide are at the hands of a domestic partner as they attempt to leave or right after they leave the abuser. If that person owns a gun or can access a gun, the domestic abuser is more likely to be successful in his homicidal rage, as guns are accurate and lethal.

We need look no further than last week, when an abusive husband went to the classroom where his wife worked in San Bernadino, CA, shooting and killing the woman, an innocent child, and himself. Abusive men with guns pose a danger not just to their intimate partner, but to all who surround her or him. The most clear causal link to someone becoming deadly in their violence is the fact that they have been an abuser of an intimate partner. The list is long, and includes the shooter at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida; the Planned Parenthood shooter in Colorado; the man who shot movie watchers viewing the film *Trainwreck* in Louisiana.

Senate Bill 797 closes the boyfriend and stalker loopholes so that all perpetrators of domestic violence and stalking cannot access a gun. This will make all of us safer, most notably the brave survivors who leave their abuser to start a new life.

Thank you for considering this bill, which will benefit all Oregonians. And, thank you for hearing my testimony in support of Senate Bill 797.