

Good morning, my name is Emily Teixeira. I'm a mother, a wife, a small business owner, a volunteer with Moms Demand Action, and a proud, though relatively new, Oregonian.

I moved to Oregon nearly two years ago. I had spent the previous six years living overseas. I lived in Germany, Bosnia, and Turkey; and travelled extensively throughout Europe. America is generally admired and was praised by most the people I met. Of course, there were criticisms, but those seemed to vary from person to person and country to country. The one thing I was constantly asked about was the overwhelming amount of gun violence in the world's most "civilized" nation.

I often heard from locals about how frightening American gun violence was to them, and this included a country that was born out of a horrific civil war that introduced us to the term "ethnic cleansing". I didn't think much of it until I moved back to the US and realized that we, as a nation, have become relatively numb to it, most likely due to its frequency. I'm not suggesting that numbness happened in the six years I was out of the country, but I definitely noticed it after I returned.

I knew there must be some way to change our collective reaction - or lack thereof - to gun violence, but after giving it much thought I realized any change would have to start with a decrease in violent gun-related events in our country. That's why I am here today as a member of Moms Demand Action: to ask you to vote for common sense gun laws.

To add some context, my father is a sportsman and was once an avid hunter. After college, I went to work for the Department of Defense. After nearly a decade, I left the DoD and married my husband who has been a law enforcement officer for the past 18 years. I've spent my whole life around guns and responsible gun owners. I have no problem with either and have incredible respect for both.

In all my time around guns and gun owners, I have never met a single responsible gun owner who would have a problem allowing law enforcement to fully do their job. As I have been reminded time and again by my husband, a law enforcement officer's primary job is to protect and serve. By closing these dangerous loopholes that remain in Oregon's current gun laws, you are allowing law enforcement to fully do that job. Voting yes on SB 797 continues Oregon's proud tradition of ensuring our safety and security by keeping dangerous people from gaining access to guns.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today and for the hard work you do.

Emily Teixeira  
West Linn  
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense