

My name is Andrea Platt and I live in Lake Oswego. As a parent, I mourned the Sandy Hook tragedy and far too many other mass shootings, including those too close to home -- Clackamas Town Center and Umpqua Community College. Last year, my children were innocent bystanders when someone pulled out a gun and was shot by police officers at the Capitol Visitor's Center in Washington, D.C. The most shocking part wasn't the shooting, but rather, the response from my kids. "Mom," they said. "This is normal. It happens every day." That's when I became involved in Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

In February, I joined over 150 Moms at the Oregon Legislature in support of SB 797. Hearing the testimony of a mother who lost her adult daughter to gun violence at the hands of an abusive partner reinforced my conviction. SB 797 puts common sense into law. It keeps guns out of the hands of those who stalk and abuse women. It ensures that when a prohibited purchaser attempts to get a gun, law enforcement has time to do a thorough background check and they are alerted and enabled to stop a prohibited person when they fail a background check. .

The most shocking part of that day wasn't the tragic story shared by one survivor at a podium in front of reporters. It was that so many of the women who stood quietly in solidarity and support shared similar experiences. I spoke to several more women that day whose lives were impacted by situations SB 797 would have prevented. That's because the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely a woman will be shot and killed. A study found that thirty percent of criminals who failed a background check over the course of a year were re-arrested within five years. Our society makes it all too easy for dangerous people to get guns and use them.

I urge you to support SB 797, for the safety of our communities. As a mom, I use common sense every day to keep my kids safe. I call on you to do that to help prevent gun violence. For the sake of our children and future generations, we cannot allow this to become the norm.

Kind regards,

Andrea Platt

Lake Oswego

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense