

Hello,

My name is Sheri Wantland, a voter from Beaverton. I am here to ask you to support Senate Bill 797 (SB797) to strengthen existing gun laws. Long before mass shootings became commonplace in this county, I have advocated for gun safety because my brother was murdered with a gun in 1974. We thought it couldn't get worse, but since his death my extended family has suffered four suicides and a mercy killing/suicide—all by guns.. We must try to keep guns out of the hands of those who have proven to be dangerous. SB 797 will close the Charleston loophole and give law enforcement adequate time to complete a background check. The overwhelming majority of background checks are completed immediately. But if a background check is taking longer, isn't that a red flag? SB 797 will trigger an alert that reports to law enforcement when someone tries to buy a gun who is not permitted to purchase a gun. Why is that not already the law? SB 797 would close so-called boyfriend loopholes so that anyone convicted of domestic violence, not just spouses or co-parents, will be prohibited from purchasing a gun. SB 797 would also prohibit convicted stalkers from possessing or buying a gun. These are all common-sense gun safety provisions supported by most Americans that should be part of Oregon law. I ask that you support SB 797. Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

Sheri Wantland
Beaverton
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense