

Chairman Prozanski and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Lou Jaffe. I am a native Oregonian, a Vietnam veteran, a board member of Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership, and most recently I was president of the organization that built Oregon's WWII memorial on the capitol grounds.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of Senate Bill 868, the Extreme Risk Protection Order. I support of this bill because it is balanced; it is pragmatic, and can save lives in each of your respective districts.

As you are undoubtedly aware, every day in Oregon, on average, more than one person dies from gun violence, and over 80% of those are suicides. The Extreme Risk Protection Order closes a significant gap in our current laws, and will go a long way towards reducing the number of these gun related deaths in our state. In short, as you are aware, this bill creates a mechanism for family or household members to work with law enforcement to temporarily remove guns and prevent the purchase of new guns by individuals who pose a heightened risk of harm to themselves or others.

Seems like a no brainer to me, considering that less than 1/3 of Oregon households own a gun. But you will undoubtedly hear testimony alleging that this bill will seriously erode... one's 2nd Amendment rights. To that testimony I would urge you to consider the language of

late Justice Scalia's 2008 *Heller* opinion, wherein he wrote, and I quote: "...“Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited”; writing further, and I quote: “. . . nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill....” . , ~~or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms.”~~

A common thread in many shootings is that family members of the shooters have seen their loved ones engage in dangerous behaviors and had concerns about their risk of harming themselves or others – even before any violence occurred. Accordingly, family members are often the first to know when a loved one is in crisis.

SB868 would provide families and loved ones an opportunity to reduce the risk of suicide, or other forms of gun violence, for a family member who is in crisis.

I urge you to govern for the common good...by giving your full support to SB868, and making Oregon a safer place for ALL of us. Thank you.

