

Testimony to Senate Judiciary Committee
On SB 868 and SB 797
April 17, 2017

Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
900 Court St. NE, Salem 97301

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tom O'Connor. I am retired and live in Clackamas County.

I am here as a life-long gun owner to support SB 868 and SB 797. I am a board member of Gun Owners For Responsible Ownership, and a member of the Advisory Committee for the Oregon Coalition for Common Sense. We believe that with rights come responsibilities and we support common sense measures to reduce gun violence.

Extreme Risk Protective Orders, established in SB 868, create a tool for family members and household members to petition the court to temporarily remove firearms and prevent the purchase of new guns by individuals who pose a risk to themselves or the community.

Many of us as gun owners have experienced the need to remove firearms from easy access by aging relatives or troubled youth. If necessary, an Extreme Risk Protective Order helps provide a legal process to do that using a civil court order issued by a judge after hearing evidence of need.

I believe the legal process established in this legislation achieves a fair balance between the rights of gun owners and the rights of family members and the community to be safe from gun violence.

I also support SB 797 to give law enforcement the necessary time to complete a background check without an artificial deadline. Again, this seems to be a common sense approach that will reduce the chances that firearms will be illegally obtained by felons, domestic abusers, or the dangerously mentally ill. I do not believe that it imposes an undue burden on me as a gun owner.

Thank for the opportunity to testify and I urge your support of SB 868 and SB 797.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Connor