

Support for SB 797

Chairman Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am Andy Harris from North Portland, and I am here supporting SB 797 on behalf of Oregon Center for Christian Voices and Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

According to the N.Y. Times, each week 10 women in the U.S. are shot to death by their husbands, boyfriends or former dating partners.

Here in Oregon over 2,000 Oregonians were killed by firearms between 2010 and 2014, the vast majority by suicide.

In 2016, the American Medical Association (AMA) and OHSU declared that gun violence in the United States is a public health epidemic.

Let's not play politics with peoples lives. Oregon Center for Christian Voices is appalled at the number of lives lost due to lax gun laws and easy access to guns by those who pose a public health risk.

We favor closing the Charleston Loophole and giving the State Police sufficient time to run a background check on buyers of firearms. It is not unreasonable for a buyer to have to wait more than three days while police determine whether he or she qualifies to own a gun.

We believe that dating partners convicted of domestic violence should be denied access to firearms, just like couples who are married or living together. Why on earth would we want people convicted of domestic violence to have access to firearms?

For those of us who are physicians, we have witnessed the terrible destruction of gun-induced injuries in our Emergency Departments. We ask that you take action to keep guns out of the hands of those who are at risk of doing permanent harm to themselves and others.

SB 797 is one small, but important step toward curbing the epidemic of gun violence. Oregon Center for Christian Voices and Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility urge you to vote for SB 797.

Thank you.

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