

From: Handy Barker
To: [SJUD Exhibits](#)
Subject: Letter in support of SB 797 from a triple survivor of gun shootings in Douglas County, Oregon.
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2017 7:28:11 AM

My name is Brad Allen. I am a retired Drama and English teacher in Douglas County, Oregon. In my tenure here, I estimate I've seen two dozen kids killed with guns: about one a year, which, to me, seems like too many.

In the last decade, I've survived both school shootings: Roseburg High School 2006 and Umpqua Community College 2015, as well as a recent shooting on my street in which a stray shot hit my house.

I am a gun owner and was trained in gun and hunters' safety by the NRA in 1974 when the NRA could be counted on for Common Sense Gun Safety. Indeed, its history shows that before 1977, the NRA was a key force in Common Sense Gun Legislation—against machine guns in the 1930s and against mail-order sales in the 1960s. But in an effort to boost sales in the waning of hunting among Americans, the NRA shifted to “Home Safety” gun marketing—a euphemism I believe for “keeping assault weapons in the home to protect against immigrants, black, and brown people”—and we began to get our first waves of mass shootings.

This is a letter I submitted to both papers in my town—Roseburg. I urge all congressmen, including my own short-sighted and, in my view, incompetent congressmen, to finally support Common Sense Gun legislation.

Letter In Support of SB 797 by a retired teacher who survived both school shootings in Roseburg—2006 and 2015— as well as a recent shooting on my street. Common Sense Gun Safety bills like SB797 would've prevented all three shootings I survived and saved the lives of dozens of Oregonians who were my students.

Brad Allen, RHS Teacher, Retired

Let's go for a pizza. I'll buy. But hey, when I give the cashier my debit card, there's a delay, and my card doesn't clear. So... do we get the pizza?

Nope.

But, by Oregon law, if it's an assault rifle, we do. We wait three days, come back for an AR-15 and go commit crimes. Does that sound like Common Sense Gun Safety to you, ladies? Nope.

That's a legal loophole in the Oregon gun laws that women in Oregon are currently working to close for safety.

And as residents of the only county in Oregon with two School Shootings—RHS 2006 and UCC 2015—all moms saw how loopholes can be jimmed by mentally unstable loners to acquire the arsenal they need to carry out horrific violence in our county.

Fortunately, Senate Bill 797, in Salem this month, closes four loopholes now exploited by dangerous men. It has almost no affect on you. Except to keep your family, schools, and women safer.

We men think first of ourselves. Women think of the family and the community. So does SB797:

--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->If his background check doesn't clear, does the guy get the gun? NO. LOOPHOLE CLOSED.

--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->The criminal's background check is rejected by the OSP. Will local authorities be notified immediately? YES. LOOPHOLE CLOSED.

--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->If a man is abusive, can his girlfriend finally restrict his access to firearms to hurt her? YES. LOOPHOLE CLOSED.

--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->If a creep is stalking your daughter, can she finally restrict his access to a handgun? YES. LOOPHOLE CLOSED. She is safe.

We used to count on the government and NRA for Common Sense gun regulation. In my high school in the 1970s, there were loaded hunting rifles in pickups every day. We had common sense: no one would've thought to turn the guns on our own students.

But when the NRA shifted its marketing away from hunting to "home safety"—a euphemism for protecting the home against black and brown people-- and into assault weapons, we got our first waves of school shootings. And the unthinkable happened: the NRA that once trained us in safety and carried out regulation lobbied for weapons of war in the home and zero rumors of regulation based on trumped-up

misinterpretations of a second amendment.

350 million guns in the hands of a few million men spread across a country is in no way a “well-regulated militia”.

That’s just common sense.

Enough. Our epidemic of gun murder has touched my life three times in ten years in Oregon. I’ve spoken at too many funerals, comforted moms and dads who thought we had common sense. Even listened to terrified and lost congressmen like my own who deny that there’s a problem.

Senate Bill 797 begins to shift a tide back to common sense.

There is no defense for the fear and terror we are subjected to by the NRA and the gun lobby to sell more guns. Recent federal legislation even gives mentally deficient men the right to purchase guns: wasn’t this the last guideline of Common Sense for the NRA?

Vote “yes” on SB 797 and all legislation that restores Common Sense to our gun safety.