

Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Damon Motz-Storey and I am the Program Assistant at Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. I also live in Senator Dembrow's district in Southeast Portland. I am here to express support for Senate Bills 797 and 868 on behalf of Oregon's youth.

In September I reached out to young people across the state to hear stories about gun violence in their communities. Over 150 students wrote in from all over including Yoncalla, Cottage Grove, Klamath Falls, North Eugene, East Portland, Salem, Ontario, Medford, and more. The student who most impacted us lives in Senator Thatcher's district in Tigard. She wrote a dream of a future in which the United States could have its last mass shooting ever in 2018. A student from The Dalles High School wrote us with a hunger for practical solutions in the wake of losing a classmate to gun violence. I'll be submitting their writings into the record on their behalf, since it's a school day today and they can't be here in person.

I grew up in the same school district as Columbine High School in Colorado, and remember the fear that gripped my heart when my school would run drills about what to do if an active shooter came onto campus. It's clear from the over 150 Oregon high school students who wrote to me that something needs to be done urgently to address gun violence in our communities.

Oregon's youth know the trauma and loss created by gun violence. That's why we must pass Senate Bills 797 and 868. I'll close with a quote from Brittany, a high school student who wrote to us from Lake Oswego:

"33,000 gun-deaths per year makes gun-violence  
an epidemic more expansive than the Ebola outbreak  
that killed about a third of those shot down  
a surge of aid went to contain Ebola, yet  
bullets sprawl to every corner

...

to those who cling to the Second Amendment:  
Responsibilities for safety are attached to any right  
The right to own a vehicle comes with rules and regulations  
The right to own a firearm comes with the same conditions"

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