

From: Kate Manelis
To: [SJUD Exhibits](#)
Subject: Written Testimony - SB 797
Date: Monday, April 17, 2017 1:35:32 PM

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please accept the following written testimony in support of with inc SB 797. My name is Kate Manelis. I'm an Oregonian, a licensed social worker, and a mom of 2. I don't have a story to share about how gun violence has affected me or my family personally. That's not why I'm working for common sense gun legislation here in Oregon. I'm doing so because when my daughter was in Kindergarten last year, she came home and excitedly told me all about what they would do "if a bad guy comes to school and we have to go to the corner and be so so quiet." And three years before that, my son shared what he learned that day, as a 1st grader: "We might have to run away from school if there's a bad guy, and we just run so fast and find the closest house and knock on the door, and they'll help us." This is not normal. It is *not normal*. When I was a kid in California, we had earthquake drills and fire drills. And now our children are having to go through active shooter drills. The response to increasing gun violence should not be to accept it as a normal part of life, and teach 5-year-olds what to do if they come face to face with an armed man in the hallway of their schools. The response should be to continue working to ensure that dangerous people don't have access to firearms to begin with.

I'm not so naive to believe that the passage of SB 797 will solve all of our gun problems in Oregon. Certainly some criminals will continue to obtain guns unlawfully. No one would claim that would cease with increased legislation. But 797 is a step in the right direction. If its passage prevents even one shooting of an innocent person - isn't that worth it? People die in car accidents every day. Does that mean all the automobile safety features that have been created in the past 30 years are worthless? How many people have survived auto accidents today who would have died 30 years ago - before seat belts were required, before air bags existed, before cars were manufactured to be as safe as they are now?

Please support the passage of SB 797. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Kate Manelis
Tigard, OR 97224