

April 17, 2017

TO: Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: Support for SB 868 and SB 797

I am writing to express my strong support for both SB 868 and SB 797. SB 868 will help prevent suicides—the leading cause of gun deaths in Oregon—and mass shootings by enabling law enforcement or family members to limit a high-risk individual's access to firearms temporarily. SB 797 will close the “Charleston loophole” and ensure that background checks are completed before gun purchases may proceed. Even if this slightly delays some gun purchases, the delay is worthwhile if one life is saved or one mass shooting prevented.

Both bills are reasonable, common-sense measures that can be taken to protect Oregonians from gun violence without infringing upon the rights of gun owners. On a selfish note, I would like to be able to relax at the mall, movie theater, or grocery store without constantly scouting for the nearest exit. The tragic gun deaths we all too often read about in the news are preventable, and our wonderful state, which is a leader in so many areas, should take all possible steps to bring the number of gun deaths in Oregon to zero.

Thank you for supporting these bills and for taking leadership on these issues.



Jordan Schoonover

Hillsboro, OR