



Testimony in support of SB797. Presented by Spike Selby, resident of Portland, Oregon, and State Membership Lead of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

The below letter was presented to all Senators in the Oregon Legislature on April 17, 2017:

### Open Letter To The Oregon State Legislature

We, the undersigned are writing to express our concern over the prevalence of gun violence around the country, as well as here in Oregon, and to call on the state legislature to enact legislation that will strengthen our state's background checks system and keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, stalkers, and other dangerous people.

An average of 93 Americans are killed with guns every day, and our community and nation have been repeatedly devastated by mass shootings and the daily toll of gun violence that claims more than 30,000 lives each year. Here in Oregon, at least 771 people have been shot and killed in the last decade, and more than 3,500 others shot and killed themselves.

Oregon has been a leader in recent years on enacting common sense gun violence prevention legislation, like requiring criminal background checks for all gun sales. While that was a big step forward for the state, there is still more that we can do to reduce the number of gun deaths in Oregon.

Fortunately, there is a package of common-sense policies before the Oregon Legislature right now that can protect public safety and keep guns out of dangerous hands, while respecting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners.

- By prohibiting convicted stalkers from owning guns and closing the “Boyfriend Loophole”, we can reduce the number of domestic violence gun homicides.
- By closing the “Charleston Loophole” and making sure that a background check is always completed before a gun sale occurs, we can improve the effectiveness of the existing system and keep guns from falling into the hands of people who aren't allowed to have them.
- By making sure law enforcement is promptly notified when an unlawful purchaser and potentially dangerous person tries to buy a gun and fails a background check, we can make sure we're enforcing the laws that are already on the books.

We hope that Oregon will continue to be a leader when it comes to gun violence prevention. That is why we the undersigned call on the Oregon state legislature to pass SB 797.

Signed by over 70 health care professionals, educators, faith and civic leaders, community advocacy organizations, and concerned prominent Oregon citizens.