

Hello, my name is Rebecca Cohen. I am a mother and volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I'm here today to advocate on behalf of SB797, whose four different gun safety measures will help protect Oregonians from gun violence.

We often hear the refrain, "Why pass new gun laws? We should enforce the laws already on the books." Well, SB797 does just that:

- SB 797 closes dangerous loopholes that allow guns to fall into the hands of prohibited domestic abusers and stalkers.
- SB797 notifies law enforcement when a prohibited buyer fails a criminal background check while attempting to purchase a gun.
- SB797 ensures that the criminal background check process is completed before a gun purchase is approved.

On that last point, often referred to as 'The Charleston Loophole,' I ask you to picture the following scenarios:

- Your blood test results aren't back yet, but since it's been three days, we'll just assume you don't have cancer.
- During her driving test, your daughter ran a stop sign, but since her test took longer than an hour, we'll issue her a Driver's License.
- We haven't completed your criminal background check yet, but since school starts tomorrow, we'll let you start teaching kindergarten.

Sounds ridiculous, right?

So why apply the same logic to something as important as whether somebody is legally prohibited from purchasing a gun?

When it comes to criminal background checks, we should give the process the time it needs. The background check system should be pass-fail. Felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous people shouldn't be able to get a gun with an "incomplete."

In 2015, I was proud when Oregon became the 18th state to require criminal background checks on all handgun sales. Like many, I had no idea that there was a 3-day time limit on the background check process. Tragically, it took the murder of 9 churchgoers in Charleston, SC for many Americans to realize that this dangerous loophole even existed.

Making sure these checks are completed—whether that takes less than five minutes, as is the case for 95% of percent of background checks, or longer—is the best way to ensure that a prohibited buyer cannot purchase a weapon.

With rights come responsibilities. Oregon has a responsibility to its citizens to complete the background check process on every firearm sale. We also have the responsibility to enforce our gun safety laws.