

From: Elizabeth Caswell
To: [SJUD Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Monday, April 17, 2017 9:49:53 AM

My name is Elizabeth Caswell, and I live in Portland.

I am the mother of two children, and a member of Moms Demand Action.

In 2013, I was honored as the Oregon Young Mother of the Year, and in fact, it was around this time four years ago that I last spoke at the Capitol, when I opened the legislative session in the Oregon House of Representatives during the week of Mother's Day.

I am here today in support of SB 797. While I agree with all four points of the legislation, I would like to focus on two elements that directly impact mothers and children.

In my time as Mother of the Year, a focus of my outreach was to Domestic Violence shelters, and supporting the mothers and children there. What I experienced changed me forever.

Mothers who leave a domestic violence situation with their children are already terrified. Add a firearm to that situation, and it is a deadly recipe that makes the United States a place where American women are 16 times more likely to be killed with a gun than women in other high-income countries. In an average month, 50 women are shot and killed by a current or former partner. A staggering 4.5 million American women alive today have been threatened with a gun by their intimate partner, and nearly 1 million women alive today have been shot, or shot at, by an intimate partner.

These statistics do not communicate the fear and terror in the eyes of a mother who is afraid for her life, and that of her children. She is afraid her intimate partner will kill her children in retaliation. We have seen this in the news too often in Oregon recently.

The mere act of a prohibited and dangerous abuser trying to purchase a firearm is a crime.

Notifying local law enforcement at this point in the process can save women's lives.

You can help these women by voting yes on SB 797. It will cover all intimate partners by closing the Boyfriend Loophole and notifying local law enforcement of the failed attempt to purchase. It will give mothers and their children the protection from abusive dating partners that they deserve.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 797.

My name is Elizabeth Caswell, and I live in Portland.

I am the mother of two children, one in college, and one in high school. Outside of the home, I work as a faculty member at Pacific University in Forest Grove.

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Portland

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense