



Monday, April 17th, 2017

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Kelly Campbell, and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. We are the Oregon chapter of an international organization of health professionals committed to protecting human life from the gravest threats to health and survival, and as part of that organization, we shared in the Nobel Peace Prize for our work for nuclear disarmament. We represent more than 2000 members throughout the state who care deeply about the health of our communities and believe we must employ sound public policy to protect public health.

Gun violence has reached epidemic proportions in our state and nation. In fact, the American Medical Association has declared gun violence to be a public health crisis. We have an alarming situation here in Oregon, with a gun death rate greater than the national average. From 2010 to 2014, more than 2,000 people in Oregon died from firearms injuries, with suicide accounting for more than half of these deaths. Fortunately, common sense prevention measures, such as Senate Bills 797 to close the Charleston loophole and SB 868, the Extreme Risk Prevention Order, can help get this epidemic under control. By voting for these bills today, know that you will be saving lives.

Doctors, nurses, and other health professionals in Oregon understand the urgency of this issue and are speaking out for common sense gun control measures that protect public health. I am submitting into the record today a letter signed by over 80 Oregon health professionals from across the state who urge you to pass Senate Bills 797 and 868 to protect the lives of Oregonians from gun violence. Evidence from other states shows that bills like these save the lives of individuals in domestic violence situations and those who are at high risk of attempting suicide.

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Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

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I urge you to listen to the advice of Oregon doctors, nurses, and other health professionals and support Senate Bills 797 and 868 to save the lives of your fellow Oregonians.

Kelly Campbell

Kelly Campbell
Executive Director



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Dear Legislator,

We are Oregon health professionals. We care deeply about the health of our communities and believe we must employ sound public policy to protect the public health. This approach is critical to reducing gun deaths and injuries in Oregon and across the United States of America.

Gun violence has reached epidemic proportions in our state and nation and should be understood and treated as a public health crisis. A public health approach has been successful in reducing death and disability from infectious diseases, automobile accidents, unsafe food, and consumer products, but similar strategies have not been put in effect to address injuries and fatalities from firearms. We see the tragic result of these policy failures in our work. Here in Oregon, there are more fatalities each year from firearms than from motor vehicle traffic accidents or unintentional poisoning.

As doctors, nurses, and other health professionals, we are writing an evidence-based prescription to address this issue: We call for your support of the following bills in the 2017 Oregon Legislative Session:

- SB 868 (Extreme Risk Prevention Order): 83% of gun deaths in Oregon are suicides. People experiencing a crisis may be at an elevated risk of suicide. Senate Bill 868 establishes an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) to empower families and law enforcement to prevent gun tragedies by establishing a civil court process to restrict access to firearms for up to a year based on clear and convincing evidence.
- SB 797 (Close the Charleston Loophole): Senate Bill 797 will strengthen Oregon's gun violence prevention laws by: (1) prohibiting gun possession by abusive dating partners and stalkers, (2) closing the Charleston loophole and giving law enforcement enough time to complete criminal background checks before gun sales can proceed, and (3) ensuring that law enforcement officials are notified when criminals try and fail to purchase guns illegally.
- SB 1026 (Child Access Prevention): Oregon currently has no clear standard that firearms should be safely stored when a child could be present in the home. Senate Bill



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1026 makes it a crime to allow a child to gain unintended access to a firearm by failing to lock or properly secure it. The law would also educate the public by ensuring licensed gun dealers post the safe storage requirements in their business.

Many of these common sense policies are already in place in some form in a number of other states; each has been shown to reduce gun deaths and injuries. A majority of the Oregon public, health professionals, and gun owners alike strongly support these measures. It is time for the Legislature to take action to confront the epidemic of gun violence in our communities. Please join us in supporting these proposals.

Sincerely,

First Name	Last Name	Credentials	City	State
Karin	Olson	BSN	Beaverton	OR
William S	Herz	MD	Bend	OR
Elizabeth	Waldron	MD	Corvallis	OR
Roberta	Hall	PhD	Corvallis	OR
Debby	Vajda	LCSW	Corvallis	OR
Lee	Davis	PhD	Eugene	OR
Don	Dumond	PhD	Eugene	OR
Martin	Donohoe	MD, FACP	Lake Oswego	OR
Barbara	Manildi	MD	Lake Oswego	OR
Sheri	Ambrose	RPh	Lincoln City	OR
Susan	Katz	MD	McMinnville	OR
Laura	Hanks	PA-C	Milwaukie	OR
Marti	Franc	RN, MSN	Oregon City	OR
Kenneth	Robbins	RPh	Pendleton	OR
John	Gillette	MD	Portland	OR
Paula	Amato	MD	Portland	OR
Jennifer	Bevacqua	NP	Portland	OR
Naomi	Bloom	MSW	Portland	OR
Judith	Boothby	DC	Portland	OR
Nancy	Casey	NP	Portland	OR
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