

Testimony to House Committee on Rules
On SB 719
July 3, 2017

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tom O'Connor. I am retired and live in Clackamas County.

I am a life-long gun owner and I support SB 719. I am a member of Gun Owners For Responsible Ownership and an Advisory Committee member of the Oregon Coalition For Common Sense. We believe that with rights come responsibilities and we support common sense measures to reduce gun violence.

Extreme Risk Protective Orders, established in SB 719, create a tool for family members and household members to petition the court to temporarily remove firearms and prevent the purchase of new guns by individuals who pose a risk to themselves or the community.

Many of us as gun owners have experienced the need to remove firearms from easy access by aging relatives or troubled youth. If necessary, an Extreme Risk Protective Order helps provide a legal process to do that using a civil court order issued by a judge after hearing evidence of need.

I believe the legal process established in this legislation achieves a fair balance between the rights of gun owners and the rights of family members and the community to be safe from gun violence.

Thank for the opportunity to testify and I urge your support of SB 719.