

EVERYTOWN FOR GUN SAFETY/MOMS DEMAND ACTION

Testimony in support of -1 Amendment to SB 978

April 2, 2019

Senate Judiciary Committee

Thank you Chairman Prozanski. My name is Debbie Lindgren. I volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America along with being a parent and a retired high school teacher.

I am here today in support of the -1 amendment to Senate Bill 978. I work directly with advocating for gun safety at the national and state level with Everytown and Moms Demand Action.

The United States has become a nation of gun survivors, directly or indirectly. America's gun death rate is tragic and unique – 10 times higher than other high-income countries.

- Gun violence is now the second leading cause of death for American children.
- Nearly 82% of gun deaths in Oregon are suicides—that is one every 22 hours.
- The U.S. firearm suicide rate has increase by 19% over the past decade, with a 61% increase among children and teenagers.

These statistics highlight the critical need for this bill. The effects of gun violence extend far beyond these casualties as well—gun violence shapes the lives of millions of Americans who witness it, know someone who was shot, or live in fear of the next shooting.

Moms Demand Action advocates for responsible gun ownership while keeping guns out of the wrong hands and aims to create a culture of gun safety. This proposal is a step in the right direction to address these issues. It allows gun dealers at gun shows and certain businesses to establish a minimum age of 18 to 21 for the purchase of firearms. This is significant since 18 to 20 year-olds are offenders in gun homicides at a rate 4x higher than adults 21 and older. It also calls for responsible firearm storage.

We are grateful you are considering gun violence prevention measures this week and proposing legislative solutions. I urge this committee to vote yes on the -1 amendment to SB978.