

March 4, 2021  
Re: Support for HB 2543

Esteemed Chair Bynum, Vice Chair Noble, Vice Chair Power, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

As a concerned parent and public health advocate, I urge you to support HB 2543. This legislation would close a dangerous loophole in our state's background check system. This loophole can allow people to obtain firearms even if they are prohibited from purchasing them.

This measure would not hurt law abiding gun owners. Responsible gun owners will still be able to pass their background checks and purchase firearms. Most background checks are already completed within three days. But this loophole allows people to get around the background checks that everyone else is subjected to.

It is called the "Charleston Loophole" because this is how a white supremacist obtained the weapons he used to murder nine members of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church during a prayer meeting in 2015. This bill has the potential to save lives. I urge you to support HB 2543.

Thank you for your public service on behalf of Oregonians now and in the future.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Audrey Zunkel deCoursey