

Today I write in support of HB 2543, a life-saving bill that strengthens Oregon gun laws. As a gun violence survivor, I live with the trauma that results from lax gun laws and America's "guns everywhere for everyone" obsession. From 1998-2013, four people in my life (all Oregonians) died by firearm. I cannot overstate the psychological toll that gun violence takes on families and communities. Background checks are a tool we can use to keep firearms out of the wrong hands. We must use this tool without exception, before allowing an Oregonian to purchase a firearm. Since the pandemic, gun sales have skyrocketed, which is causing backlogs to the background check system. In 2020 it is estimated that over 585,000 background checks took longer than 3 days. Background checks taking longer than 3 days are 4x more likely to result in denial. It is past time for Oregon to close this loophole that allows gun purchases without a completed background check. Please support HB 2543 to prevent firearm suicide and homicide in Oregon.