

Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary, Chair Bynum,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony to this committee meeting. I am a life long educator, school board member, and parent of two children. I have grave concerns with the Charleston Loophole that exists in our state which allows for dangerous individuals to purchase a firearm without a complete background check. House Bill 2543 will close this deadly loophole. This bill will ensure that a criminal background check is completed for every gun sale to stop convicted felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous people from purchasing guns each year. Allowing enough time to complete criminal background checks before gun sales proceed is critical to keeping our communities safe from gun violence.

The gun violence epidemic in this country is a direct result of easy access to firearms by dangerous individuals. Currently in Oregon, if a background check is not completed within 3 days, an individual can purchase a gun without a complete background check. This loophole is what led to the murder of 13 innocent victims in their place of worship in Charleston, South Carolina. As gun sales in Oregon are at record levels, and background check systems are overwhelmed, it is now critical that we close this deadly loophole.

I strongly urge you to take action now to protect our communities from gun violence by supporting HB 2543.

In Community,
Melissa Barnes Dholakia