

My name is dr. doreen dodgen-magee. I live in Tualatin and lost four family members and had another injured in a shooting that occurred in Scotts Mills, Oregon. 3 of these 5 were my nieces who were 5, 3, and 5 months old when they were shot at point blank range and killed. I'm writing to urge this committee to support HB 2543.

Under federal law, gun purchases may move forward by default after three business days—even if a background check has not been completed.

While 90% of federal background checks are completed in minutes, those that take longer than 3 business days are 4 times as likely to be denied. Those denials are most often for prior felonies or domestic abuse.

This matters to me because my family was killed by such an individual. My brother in law was able to buy a gun, even with a restraining order against him, and use it to kill his entire family in broad view of a community that included many children who had just left school with my niece. This never should have happened.

HB 2543 is also personal for me because my dear friend lost her mother, cousin, pastor, and friends at Mother Emanuel in Charleston, SC because a fire arm was released for sale after three days of an unpassed background check. Watching the extreme trauma that she and the entire Mother Emanuel community has experienced and knowing that my family's small Oregon community has similarly suffered compels me to implore you to vote yes on HB2543.

Oregon's firearm background check system is overwhelmed as unprecedented numbers of Oregonians try to purchase firearms. In the last year, many Oregon background checks took a week or more to clear, making it highly likely that this loophole allowed convicted felons and domestic abusers, like my brother in law, to buy guns, even though they are legally barred from doing so.

Please honor the Oregon lives taken by gun by preventing sales without a background check. Please vote yes on HB2543 in honor of my sister in law, Laura, and all other Oregon parents who are trying to keep their children safe...and alive.