

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Peren Tiemann. I live in Lake Oswego, where I attend high school, and I am a volunteer with Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

We are a grassroots movement fighting for public safety measures that respect the Second Amendment while protecting us from gun violence.

We are here today to urge this committee to support HB 2543, an important bill that would prevent people from buying a gun until a background check has been completed.

Background checks are the primary way we enforce our gun possession laws. They are the most comprehensive intervention method we have to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Five years ago, a white man filled with hate and armed with a gun murdered nine Black people in Mother Emanuel church in Charleston while they prayed. They were killed by the same hate, racism, systemic inequality, and lack of gun safety laws that kill Black people every day in this country. The Charleston shooter bought his gun when his background check was delayed more than three business days. He ultimately would have failed the background check, but the dealer exercised his ability under federal law to transfer the gun even though the background check was not yet complete.

Gun violence shatters families, impacts schools and entire communities. The trauma and devastation that our students, teachers, neighbors, and communities are dealing with is real.

It's just common sense that a completed background check is a must in order to buy a firearm. Please vote to ensure Oregon joins the 19 other states that have closed the Charleston Loophole.