

Maripat Hensel - Testimony in support of Oregon SB 243-1 – provided publicly on March 27th – with an update

Good afternoon - Chair and elected legislators.

My name is Maripat Hensel, a constituent, from Wilsonville, Oregon. I am here in support of SB 243-1 as it pulls together bills that I am passionate about including banning the sale and possession of rapid fire devices such as bump stocks and trigger cranks, raising the age to 21 to purchase an assault weapon, establishing the 72 hour waiting periods and banning firearms from sensitive public spaces.

All of the vital elements of these bills work together for a more secure Oregon citizenry. We need these pieces of legislation to become law now. **We need them for those who may take their own life and/or the life of another human.** There's data to show the importance of each of these bills in it's own right, including Oregon Health Sciences research by Dr. Carlson and John Hopkins research presented by Spencer Cantrell here on March 13th about **the importance of waiting periods before finalizing firearm purchases to de-escalate shootings.** And, much more that we heard about to reinforce research on March 27th about research. I write my own testimony and have my testimony reviewed for data accuracy. I choose this approach willingly. If I wanted to show up and use my voice without the community and expertise of Moms Demand Action, I can easily make this choice.

As a survivor of gun violence, an advocate with Moms Demand Action for common sense legislation and enforcement for firearms use, procurement and storage - and, a gun owner, I encourage you to take this opportunity for bold steps in this legislative session - for my children, my grandson and all my neighbors. I will personally work with you to bring everyone to the places where we must align our hearts and along the way to stay true to the second amendment and to the lives and livelihood of our fellow American Oregonians.

Remember survivors include those who have perished and those who are impacted and walking among us. **I have been meeting with legislators in the Capitol and at Town Halls around the metro area since 2015. We know how to do this work – together. If legislators believe that parts of this bill are important and other parts may need to hold until they are more fully, I can live with these choices, however, I do expect support for the general momentum and need to save lives in our state. The taxpayer cost burden for this public health work is far more than Oregonians realize. EveryStat.org from May 2024 indicates \$89.1 million is paid by taxpayers of the \$8.1 billion for gun deaths and injuries in Oregon. One life and the ripple effect it has is worth the support.**

I encourage bipartisan support for this important and timely 2025 bill - SB 243-1.