

Submitter: doreen dodgen-magee
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

My name is dr. doreen dodgen-magee and I'm an Oregonian, a psychologist, and, most importantly today, an auntie.

In 1995 my brother in law, who was separated from my sister in law and angry over missing his daughter's first day of kindergarten, purchased a gun, despite a restraining order against him, drove to my mother in law's home and shot and killed his wife, Laura, and their 3 children...my nieces...Sarah (age 5), Rachel (age 3), and April (age 5 months). My mother in law was shot but survived. ??This happened in the front yard, at the end of main street in the quiet, small town of Scotts Mills, Oregon.

My nieces weren't "at the wrong place at the wrong time." They were at their grandmother's home....with their parents. One of whom was able to commit a quadruple homicide because of easy access to firearms...the most lethal tool for threatening and killing people as well as inducing trauma on onlookers. And there are ALWAYS innocent onlookers whose lives are forever changed.

The entire community, along with all of our family, live with the long term effects of trauma as a result of this reality. No one should have to choose coffins, in bulk, like we did or host a standing room only memorial for an entire family taken by gun.

I know that there are people in this room who will say that this is just a "story" meant to manipulate.

I also know that, if my nieces were here, they'd be spreading joy & hugging everyone in this room & you'd feel their love for all of us...regardless of what position you take on this bill.

But this isn't just a "story." This is our lived experience and this is our very real, horrific, and preventable loss.

The actions put forth in Senate Bill 243 will make Oregon a safer place and ALL Oregonians have a right to this reality where ever they are in our beautiful state.

Please, move this bill forward.