From:	Melissa Chureau
To:	DeJong Annola
Subject:	Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 347
Date:	Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:37:04 PM

Dear Chair Prozanski and members of the committee:

My name is Melissa Chureau, and I am a mother and professional from southwest Portland. I am also a member of Moms Demand Action because action for gun sense in Oregon and America is the most important action we can undertake to protect our families and other citizens from senseless violence.

I am calling on State legislators to **adopt Bill 347** to give school districts the authority to ban guns on campus.

Guns are lethal weapons designed to be exactly that. Schools and guns don't mix, period. After the Sandy Hook tragedy, that can hardly be argued. But some will still try to argue that guns can provide a defense in extreme situations. Unfortunately, that just hasn't been the case. Just look at the statistics: Mass shootings stopped by armed civilians in the past 30 years: 0. Chances that a shooting at a public facility like an ER involves guns taken from guards: 1 in 5

In fact, owning a gun has been linked to higher risks of homicide, suicide, and accidental death by gun.
• For every time a gun is used in self-defense in the home, there are 7 assaults or murders, 11 suicide attempts, and 4 accidents involving guns in or around a home.
• 43% of homes with guns and kids have at least one unlocked firearm.
• In one experiment, one third of 8-to-12-year-old boys who found a handgun pulled the trigger.

These are terrifying figures. Even more when you consider Kim Kinkel in Springfield or Eric Harris and Dylan Klybold in Columbine.

There is simply no place for guns in schools. Schools should be sanctuaries free of violence and weapons where children and educators can focus on learning. Guns and children don’t mix. **Please adopt Bill 347** to give school districts the authority to ban guns from schools so they can keep children safe!

Thank you,
Melissa Chureau
Mom. Wife. Lawyer. Member of Moms Demand Action.