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ATTN: Senate Committee on Judiciary

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee,

My name is Sal Peralta. I am a resident of McMinnville and Secretary of the Independent Party of Oregon. I am testifying in favor of SB 868, which establishes a legal process for firearms to be confiscated in the event of an extreme risk situation where a person may be a hard to themselves or others.

**Some key statistics to consider as your committee debates this legislation:**

More than half of all gun-related deaths are suicides. Of the more than 44,000 suicides in 2015, 58 percent of them, 25,000, involved a firearm.<sup>1</sup>

Fewer than 10 percent of all suicides are attempted using a firearm, however more than half of all suicide completions involve a firearm because of the lethality of firearms (nearly 85 percent of suicides attempted with a firearm are successful).<sup>2</sup>

An abundance of research shows that most people who are denied their primary method of attempting suicide will not attempt using another method.<sup>3</sup>

Pro life legislators who believe that suicide is a mortal sin are encouraged to pray and reflect on that data.

Although this issue can generate a great deal of intense response by a loud but relatively small minority of the American public. By a ratio of 4-1, IPO members who express an opinion about gun regulation favor reasonable gun regulations along the lines of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Sal Peralta  
Secretary, Independent Party of Oregon

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<sup>1</sup> <https://afsp.org/about-suicide/suicide-statistics/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/magazine/magazine\\_article/guns-suicide/](https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/magazine/magazine_article/guns-suicide/)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(15\)00266-7/references](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(15)00266-7/references)