

I am a teacher. I worked at a Washington middle school connected to a high school and taught on the day a school shooting was attempted. The harm and trauma was immeasurable on students and staff. The school was North Thurston in Lacey. Maybe it was the Oregon name connection, or having taught Kip Kinkle, but it hit me hard. I was already involved in gun safety for Moms Demand Gun Safety, but this day really galvanized my feelings on the cause. I remember contacting my Representative who has a school age daughter and sharing what I had experienced. I begged him to consider his daughter on this important vote, and although he had been fence sitting on taking a stand as a gun owner himself, he agreed that common sense gun safety needed to be passed and gave his support. I urge all of you on this committee, whether Republican or Democrat, to see the future harm of allowing purchase of firearms when the background check system is running slow to KEEP STUDENTS SAFE. Remember Thurston. Remember Umpqua. Remember to do what in your heart you know is right regarding the "Charleston Loophole".