

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Sarah Douglass. I live in Bend with my family and am a volunteer with the Oregon Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

I'm here to testify in support of HB 2543, which would close the dangerous Charleston loophole in Oregon and give law enforcement enough time to complete background checks

This loophole is always deadly, but it's likely gotten even worse during the COVID-19 pandemic as unprecedented numbers of Oregonians seek to purchase firearms, overwhelming our background check system. In 2020, the Oregon State Police completed more than 400,000 background checks, compared to just over 300,000 in 2019. That is 100,000 additional background checks in one year.

According to news reports, many Oregon background checks were taking a week or more, which makes it even more likely that this loophole will allow guns to fall into the wrong hands. FBI data shows that background checks that take longer than three business days are 4 times as likely to be denied. Those denials are most often for prior felonies or domestic abuse.

This problem is getting worse, and we have to act now. In 2020, almost twice as many known prohibited buyers successfully got guns from dealers through the Charleston loophole compared to 2019.

It's just common sense to prevent sales without a background check. Please vote to close the Charleston loophole in Oregon.

Sources:

<https://katu.com/news/on-your-side/gun-sales-surge-in-oregon-amid-pandemic-election>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gun-purchases-charleston-loophole-2020/>