

## Testimony in Favor of HB 2543 by Judith Fardig

Chair Bynum and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2543. My name is Judith Fardig and I live in HD36 in Portland. As a retired nurse-midwife, I regard deaths and injuries from gunfire as a serious public health problem. Our collective stress level during this Covid-19 pandemic, exacerbated by vitriolic political fights, has stoked fear and driven up gun sales. The best tool we have for keeping these weapons out of the hands of felons, domestic abusers, and suicidal people who are a danger to themselves and others is our background check system for gun sales. While 90% of federal background checks are completed in minutes, those that take longer than 3 business days are 4 times as likely to be eventually denied. Those denials are most likely for prior felonies or domestic abuse. Right now in Oregon, the gun seller has the discretion to hand over the purchased gun after three business days if the background check is still pending. In 2020 with a clogged system, some background checks were taking longer than 3 days, risking too many purchasers who would eventually fail the background check getting a gun they were supposed to be legally barred from buying. Let's close this loophole to save more Oregonians' lives. Please vote YES on HB 2543>