

Submitter: Jan Bays
On Behalf Of: Zen Community of Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB348

TO: The Oregon judiciary Committee
From: Jan (Judith) Bays, MD
Date: March 27, 2023
Re: Oregon Measure 114

I wish to thank the Oregon Judiciary Committee for your ongoing work to make Oregon a safer place to live. I am writing to ask that the Committee not weaken Measure 114, but retain it as Oregon voters passed it. Please clarify or smooth out any provisions that need this work, but do not weaken the substance of the bill. (I am registering a neutral on SB 348-1.)

I am a retired pediatrician and I have served on the Oregon Medical Examiners Mortality Review Committee. We reviewed many deaths of children that were due to firearms. Some young children lost their lives and left sorrowing families behind because guns were not secured and children were able to find them --- and even unlock gun cabinets and safes --- then “play” with the guns and either kill themselves or a sibling. Some were teenagers playing “Russian Roulette.” Others were teenagers who used guns to commit suicide and the all-too-frequent “copy-cat” suicides by guns that follow often among their classmates.

As mass shootings become a common phenomenon, as a mother and grandmother of eight, it is tragic to me that we have come to the point where parents and grandparents have to be afraid to send their children to school, to a movie or outdoor concert, to the mall, outside to play, to church or even the post office, for fear that they will be killed by someone with grudge and a gun.

There is no place for automatic or semiautomatic weapons and large capacity ammunition clips in the life of a child or even the average adult. These are weapons of war, and in the hands of civilians do not promote a peaceful community or state. There is no need for the average adult to buy a gun “right away.” As a civilized and caring society we can easily require a background checks, a waiting period and training courses before a person can buy a gun.

Thank you for your ongoing work to make Oregon a safe place for all its citizens, in particular a safe place for children, who will bear the scars of any gun-related violence they encounter for the rest of their lives. A safer society is one of the best gifts we can give to our citizens, current and future.

Sincerely,

Jan (Judith A.) Bays, MD

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