



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Carmen Rubio, Commissioner
Dan Ryan, Commissioner
Rene Gonzalez, Commissioner
Mingus Mapps, Commissioner

March 28, 2023

Senate Judiciary, Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street SE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 348-1

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

I would like to start by extending my gratitude to Senator Prozanski, the Oregon Association of Police Chiefs, Everytown, and all the stakeholders who have participated in the workgroup that helped to develop SB 348-1. Thank you for your ongoing work to make Oregon a safer place to live and visit.

Unfortunately, like other major cities across the US, Portland has seen a significant uptick in gun violence over the last several years, which led me to declare a state of emergency last year and assemble a new team tasked with bringing together the right partners and resources to work at the policy and community levels to slow down the rate at which Portlanders are injuring and killing each other with guns. Despite the investments we have made, and will continue to make, the harsh reality remains that the lives and livelihoods of Portlanders and Oregonians are at risk right now. The legislature can help to mitigate some of the risk by enacting SB 348-1 to advance a system whereby responsible law-abiding Oregonians can get a background check and permit to purchase or transfer a firearm and to limit the sale of high-capacity magazines to ten rounds.

We also appreciate the workgroup's understanding that implementing and operating a new permit-to-purchase system with background checks by Oregon State Police is likely to cost more than was originally contemplated in Measure 114. We would also suggest that full implementation be delayed by three months to accommodate local government budget processes and allow our police bureau to budget for implementation in the fiscal year 2024-25 budget as our budgets for the FY 2023-24 are largely complete.

As a father, I dream of a world where we can send our kids to school, the neighborhood park, the movies, or the mall without worrying about their safety. As a policymaker, I know there is way to balance the rights of law-abiding Oregonians with the desperate need to keep guns out of the hands of people who may harm themselves or others. Permits-to-purchase and licensing are proven effective solutions to reducing gun homicides and gun suicides.

For every parent, sibling, partner, and friend who has lost a loved one to gun violence, and for every Oregonian who may experience that grief and trauma in the future, please advance this reasonable, voter-supported set of gun violence reduction policies that will put us on track to implement Measure 114. Please vote yes on SB 348-1.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler
Portland Mayor