

Submitter: Bethany Price
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

I am writing to you today in support of HB 3075-1 as a parent and a volunteer with Moms Demand Action, a grassroots movement fighting for gun safety. I live in a home where firearms are securely stored, unloaded, in a locked safe. Even though I grew up in Texas, and I know many responsible gun owners and hunters, I have also seen the finality of gun violence firsthand. My cousin Ted was taken by gun homicide. He was at a party, and someone who was intoxicated and angry went into their bedroom and grabbed a gun and attempted to shoot everyone at the party. Ted stopped him, but lost his life. Two of my most distinct memories of Ted were at joyful weddings. The first was the wedding of my brother-in-law, in Wyoming. I arrived with my husband expecting that we wouldn't know anyone other than the bride and groom, and I was grabbed up in an exuberant hug, and that's how I learned Ted and my brother-in-law had been best friends since elementary school. The other wedding was that of our cousin Rachel, in Texas, when Ted told me how much he enjoyed sharing his land and love of hunting with others. His death impacted so many people who cared about him, and my heart breaks for his parents and his brother, and for the children of his friends and family who never got to meet him. Across our country, so many family celebrations are missing a person who was loved and cherished and taken by gun violence.

I believe that we can put the value of human life and our right to walk through life without constantly wondering if yet another mass shooting is about to happen, above the complexity of implementing laws that will reduce gun violence. Responsible gun owners understand that like requiring a license to operate a vehicle, obtaining a permit to purchase a firearm is a common sense measure that will make our community safer. Like the majority of Oregonians, I voted for Measure 114 and I expect to see it implemented, especially given the recent confirmation in court that it is constitutional. This legislation will ensure the permit system works smoothly.

I live in a neighborhood in NE Portland that has had so many shootings in broad daylight that I am afraid to let my 12 year old daughter walk to her friends' houses. I refuse to accept that her future and her freedom should be curtailed by our society's failure to enact common sense gun violence prevention laws. I want nothing more than for my child to grow up in a culture that acknowledges the inherent dangers of guns and takes responsibility for addressing the violence we currently face every day.

I believe this bill calls for reasonable common sense action that will move us in the right direction and I ask for your support. Thank you.