

Submitter: Bethany Price
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

Dear Chair Kropf and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of HB 3076 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. This bill would create a firearm dealer licensing program to ensure they are taking the necessary steps to prevent gun trafficking, theft and receive adequate training to identify warning signs before selling a firearm to someone with adverse intentions. This is a commonsense program that will help prevent straw purchases of guns by people who will use them to commit crimes in our state. It wouldn't have occurred to me that my nail salon has to meet more stringent and frequent inspections and regulations than a business that sells firearms!

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.