

Submitter: Kyle Ward
On Behalf Of: My Children and Grandchildren's Legacy
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB429

General Overview:

Senate Bill 429 proposes a 72-hour waiting period for firearm purchases, claiming it will reduce suicides and prevent impulsive violence. However, this bill is merely anecdotal, and is based on flawed assumptions and disregards constitutional rights, personal safety, and real-world data.

Key Points to Counter the Moms Demand Action Arguments:

1. Waiting Periods Punish Law-Abiding Citizens, Not Criminals

MDA Claim: A waiting period will save lives by preventing impulsive suicides and violent acts.

- Counterpoint: Criminals and those intent on harm do not acquire guns legally and will not be affected by this law. A waiting period only delays lawful self-defense for responsible citizens, particularly women, domestic violence survivors, and at-risk individuals who may need immediate protection.

2. Suicide Prevention Requires Mental Health Solutions, Not Gun Control!

- * ??MDA erroneous Claim: Waiting periods reduce suicides.

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- * ??Counterpoint: Suicide is a mental health crisis, not a gun control issue. Research shows that restricting access to firearms does not address the root causes of suicide. Instead of ineffective waiting periods, Oregon should invest in mental health resources, crisis intervention programs, and education to prevent suicide holistically.

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3. No Evidence Shows That Waiting Periods Reduce Violent Crime, matter of fact, in the tragic case of late musician Kurt Cobain; Kurt purchased a shotgun with the some purpose of committing suicide. Kurt, by Washington law, was required to wait for a mandatory 5 days before he could take possession of the shotgun, went home and tragically took his own life. This tragedy wasn't derailed by an overreaching legislation, and I believe this only places law abiding Oregon citizens in eminent danger.

- * ??MDA erroneous Claim: Studies suggest waiting periods reduce violence.

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* ??Counterpoint: There is no conclusive evidence that waiting periods prevent homicides or mass shootings. States with strict waiting periods, like California, still experience high crime rates, proving that delays do not deter criminals.

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4. Delayed Self-Defense Can Cost Lives

- MDA erroneous Claim: A buffer period prevents rash decisions.

- Counterpoint: A delay denies individuals their right to immediate self-defense. If someone is under a credible threat of violence, forcing them to wait three days could result in preventable harm or even death.

5. Oregon's Background Check System Already Creates Unintentional Delays

* ??MDA erroneous Claim: The bill ensures safer vetting before purchases.

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* ??Counterpoint: Oregon already has a mandatory background check system that often causes delays. Adding another arbitrary restriction only burdens law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to enhance public safety.

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Final Position Statement:

Senate Bill 429 is not a solution to gun violence or suicide prevention - it is a feel-good measure that restricts rights and puts Oregonians at greater risk. The focus should be on mental health support, law enforcement resources, and education, rather than infringing on Second Amendment rights and delaying self-defense. Lawmakers should reject SB 429 and instead invest in proven strategies that genuinely protect Oregonians