

Submitter: Bethany Price
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243
Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Drazen and Pham and the Committee:

I'm Bethany Price, I am a parent in Portland and a volunteer with the gun violence prevention movement.

I am here today because I understand that an amendment was added in SB 243 to delay implementation of Measure 114.

Measure 114 is a gun tragedy prevention policy that is already the law in Oregon, and has been on hold because an out of state gun lobby is funding a lawsuit against what Oregonians voted for.

I want to encourage you to ensure Measure 114 can be implemented as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Measure 114 contains three of the most evidence backed policies to prevent gun tragedies, including not only preventing firearm suicides and homicides, but reducing deaths and injuries in the tragic event of a mass shooting.

First, Measure 114 ensures every single gun sold in Oregon has a completed background check. It is unacceptable that today, dealers can transfer firearms after 3 business days if the background check has not gone through. Especially because - in the event of a delay, one of the main reasons law enforcement needs more time is to ensure the purchaser doesn't have a domestic violence charge in another state. On average, 40 women die from domestic violence in Oregon each year. It is unacceptable that each year, thousands of guns are allowed to be transferred in Oregon without background checks.

Second, permitting is highly effective at reducing both gun homicides and suicides. Permitting ensures Oregon uses high quality technology for background checks. Today, Oregon uses an outdated system for gun sales - dealers run background checks with only ID and address, which can too easily be falsified, and which can easily miss state level violations like prohibited purchasers. Fingerprinting and permitting ensures the purchaser is indeed the purchaser.

Research from Johns Hopkins shows these components of permitting - which prevent impulsive purchases - would have a huge impact on reducing firearm suicides in Oregon. In fact, those researchers looked specifically at Oregon. And they found, had

permitting been in effect, it would have saved 1,000 lives over a decade. And 800 of those would have been firearm suicides.

Permitting can't prevent every firearm suicide, but it would reduce the rate of firearm suicide by around 10% in Oregon. That's more than 50 Oregonians per year, that would still be here.

Finally, Measure 114 includes a ban on high capacity magazines. Extensive research has found this ban - which stops civilians from owning military style accessories like magazines that can carry 30, 50, or even 100 rounds - reduces both the number of fatalities and the number of injuries in the tragic event of a mass shooting.

In conclusion: Oregonians brought Measure 114 to the ballot, passed it, and it is already the law. It has been found constitutional at a state and Federal level.

I urge our Oregon lawmakers to put the Voters intent into place to save lives and protect our communities. Please act with haste to implement Measure 114.