

**MOMS DEMAND ACTION**  
FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

February 13, 2015

Commissioner [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**RECEIVED**

FEB 16 2015  
[REDACTED]

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Dear Commissioner [REDACTED],

I'm writing to ask you to join with Oregon Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense and tens of thousands of moms, dads, aunts, sisters, and brothers across Oregon who support background checks on all gun sales.

Gun sense starts by passing policies proven to keep guns out of dangerous hands. Currently in Oregon, people who are prohibited from purchasing firearms can buy guns with no background checks and no questions asked through private, unlicensed sales from strangers on the Internet. Oregon is the only state on the West Coast that hasn't closed this dangerous loophole.

This year our top legislative priority is comprehensive and enforceable criminal background checks, a life-saving policy supported by 87 percent of Oregon voters.<sup>46</sup> We are asking you to join us by endorsing this sensible legislative reform. Passing the bill would level the playing field—making sure all Oregonians pass the same background check when buying a gun. The bill includes reasonable exceptions for self-defense, hunting, and transfers between immediate family members.

The claims made by opponents of closing the loophole simply don't stand up against the facts. As you're considering this issue here's what you need to know:

- Background check laws work. In states with background checks on all handgun sales, 48% fewer law enforcement are killed with handguns.
- Oregon's current background check system is quick and efficient. Oregon licensed dealers conduct tens of thousands of background checks each year, **blocking 3,982 gun sales to prohibited people, including felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous people in 2013 alone.**<sup>47</sup> 94.6% percent of Oregon residents live within 10 miles of a licensed gun dealer who is authorized to run background checks.<sup>48</sup>

---

<sup>46</sup> Hoffman, Hannah. "Gun background checks return to Oregon Legislature." *Statesman Journal* [Salem, OR] 29 Oct 2015.

<sup>47</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety analysis of FBI data, February 12, 2014.

<sup>48</sup> Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, available at <http://l.usa.gov/1zTVB6A>. Data is for FFLs with a type 1 or type 2 license.



Experts agree the single most effective thing we can do to keep guns out of dangerous hands is to require criminal background checks on all gun sales—closing the loophole that allows felons, domestic abusers and the dangerously mentally ill to buy guns.

Many dedicated leaders throughout Oregon are committed to this cause. Now is the time for leaders across the state to join together in support of an Oregon solution. Please join us by adding your name to the list of those who believe it's time to level the playing field by ensuring all Oregonians pass a background check before buying a gun.

Anneliese Davis  
Moms Demand Action, OR



## Oregonians for Background Checks

In Oregon, the single most effective thing we can do to keep guns out of dangerous hands is to require criminal background checks on all gun sales – closing the loophole that allows felons, domestic abusers and the dangerously mentally ill to buy guns.

A growing coalition—including gun violence survivors, gun owners, faith leaders, law enforcement officers, and everyday Oregonians—is working together on a common-sense bill to close Oregon's private gun sale loophole.

We hope you will join us. Sign on today to show your support for an Oregon law closing the background check loophole, a sensible reform that Oregonians overwhelmingly agree with.

Yes! Add my name to the list of organizations and community leaders supporting universal background checks for all Oregon gun sales.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: PO Box 28587, Portland, OR 97228