

Testimony in favor of SB 941

March 27, 2015

Chair Prozanski, and Members of the Committee:

Several years ago, an ex-boyfriend of mine killed himself with a gun. He had been slipping into a severe depression for some time. If I had been with him at the time, he might have killed me, too.

What was his livelihood? Working as a suicide prevention counselor for a phone hotline.

If our laws were stronger, it still might not prevent every gun-related death in our communities. But we need to ask ourselves, "Are we doing everything we can to keep our families, our children, our friends, our coworkers, colleagues, teachers, law enforcement officers, government officials, safe? How safe are we when anyone in Oregon can go online and buy a gun, regardless of past criminal history, severe mental health issues, or history of domestic violence, and start shooting in our schools, malls, libraries, homes, parks, and streets? What kind of "freedom" is that?"

That's the kind of thinking we need right now. We know that stronger laws have led to reduced gun violence in every state where they've been enacted. Please vote yes on Senate Bill 941.

Thank you,

David Rutiezer

Portland, Oregon