

(Testimony in support of Senate Bill 941, Senate Judiciary Committee, April 1, 2015)

Dear Chair Prozanski and Committee Members,

My name is Nancy Trotic and I live in Portland. I grew up in North Albany, Oregon.

Every single day, I see in the news that someone has died by gun violence in my community or state. Children. Babies. Mothers. Fathers. Brothers, sisters, neighbors, friends. Many more are wounded, disabled for life, or psychologically traumatized.

In the face of this appalling toll, shall we shrug and say there is nothing we can do about it? Shall we say that the easy availability of guns has nothing to do with it? Shall we say we're OK with it being easy as pie for criminals and domestic abusers to buy guns, no questions asked?

Knowing that the next victim could be my baby grandson, my next-door neighbor, or me--no, I can't just shrug.

Senate Bill 941, a reasonable and non-burdensome requirement that private gun sales be preceded by a background check, will help save lives, by delaying or preventing acquisition of a gun by someone who intends to do violence with it, either homicidal or self-inflicted. We know that background checks work. Delay or prevention of a sale to the wrong person means a huge chance for a life to be saved.

I believe that we, as Oregonians who care about the lives of our family and community members, have an absolute moral responsibility to take reasonable steps to lower the death toll from gun violence. Even one precious life saved is worth a million background checks!

Thank you,

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