

To the Judicial Committee:
My testimony in Support of SB 941.

My name is Patricia L. Chandler and I reside in SW Portland. I am the mother of three and a grandmother of nine children, each precious to me. They are my future. I am a retired counselor, who specialized in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

My story:

My colleagues and I were returning from a PTSD conference in Roseburg, Oregon, on May 21, 1998. The head of our clinic called and told us about the shootings at Springfield's Thurston HS and said that our team had been asked to divert to the school, to help in any way that we could.

Upon arrival, the pleasant, small town high school was filled with shocked and grieving students and staff. The cafeteria floor, hastily mopped, still showed red streaks of the victim's blood. We returned the next day to continue to talk with the survivors of this tragic and shocking event. The shock, fear and grief of the survivors has stayed with me.

To this day, whenever I read or hear of a shooting, whether it's in a shopping mall, a school, a neighborhood or a home, I picture the reality of innocent's blood and devastated survivors. I picture the emotional devastation and grief of family and friends. I know, as a PTSD specialist, that the emotional damage will continue throughout their lives.

It is time to close the Private Gun Loopholes with the common sense approach of SB 941. The facts about this long overdue action are clear. The problem: Felons, adjudicated mentally ill and adjudicated domestic abusers can avoid the current background system by going to private sellers, no questions asked.

Most significant to me are these realities in states which require comprehensive background checks:

- * **There are 46% fewer women shot and killed by their intimate partners.**
- * **There are 48% fewer on-duty police officers shot and killed.**

As a licensed mental health practitioner, I know that suicide is an impulsive act. Having to wait even one day could make the difference between life and death.

Background checks are simple and effective. Oregon State Police data shows that during 2013 alone, our limited background checks prevented 2,215 prohibited persons from purchasing guns from licensed dealers and at gun shows. Under current law, those persons were then free to go to

private sellers and buy a weapon. Comprehensive background checks would prohibit this.

Each life is precious. Every individual has a contribution to make and if they are lost to needless violence, society is the lessor.

We read or hear about gun deaths every day. Every day that we don't do what has been proven to help, means more loss of life. Please vote for SB 941.

Most sincerely,

Patricia L. Chandler, MA, LPC