



Chair Hoyle and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheri Malstrom. I have been a public health nurse specializing in child and maternal health for the past 30 years.

I'm here today to testify on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association in support of SB 941.

The Oregon Nurses Association is proud to represent over 13,000 Oregon Nurses. Oregon Nurses make up the largest segment of Oregon's health care work force, and work in nearly every health care setting imaginable, from large hospitals to small local clinics, from corrections to school-based health centers, and community-based public health.

Nurses around the state care for victims of gun violence and have seen the devastating effects of guns getting into the hands of the wrong people.

Senate Bill 941 provides reasonable regulations that will help prevent guns from being sold to convicted felons, domestic abusers, and Oregonians with severe mental illnesses, who could be a danger to themselves or others.

These common-sense protections provide real public health benefits. Today Oregonians are more likely to die from a gunshot wound than in a car accident. Roughly 60 percent of Oregon's domestic violence deaths are caused by gunshot wounds.

Senate Bill 941 can help us stop this growing public health crisis.

In states that require background checks on every gun sale, 46 percent fewer women are shot and killed by their partners, 48 percent fewer people use guns to commit suicide and 48 percent fewer police officers are shot and killed while on-duty.

Requiring standard background checks on gun sales will reduce gun violence in our communities and make Oregon a safer, healthier place for all Oregonians.

Senate Bill 941 is part of a comprehensive solution that can help us prevent future violence and deaths in our state. As a public health nurse, and an active member of the Oregon Nurses Association I urge you to support Senate Bill 941.