

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and members of the committee, my name is Wanda Davis and I live in Dallas, Oregon. I'm a US Navy veteran and a gun owner. I believe in the Second Amendment so I don't take lightly removing a person's weapons from their possession.

In 1971, I was 12 years old. My biological father had abused my mother and all of us children for years. Dad had always threatened to shoot and kill us all if she left. It eventually became clear we would die no matter what she did. My mother decided she could no longer take the abuse that was part of our daily lives.

In the seventies, there were no women's shelters in Polk County. However, with the help of mom's family members, we went into hiding, never staying more than one night in any one place.

Dad did unknowingly find us at one point. When my mom saw him pull into the driveway of the house where we were hidden away, she sent my little brother and me to the garage, telling me to keep him quiet. I understood exactly why.

I watched through thin window curtains as my dad took a deer rifle out of the car and began a tour around the outside of the house. I guess he decided we weren't there and returned to his car, put the rifle back, and got in to leave.

My brother jumped up and started running toward the window saying he wanted to watch dad go. Knowing instantly what would happen if he reached that window and drew back the curtain, I jumped up and tackled him on that hard garage floor. I'm thankful that dad had started the car and was already backing out when my brother began screaming. So, dad didn't hear him.

I am 100 percent certain that if I hadn't knocked my brother down, I wouldn't be telling you any of this. My life and those of my family would have ended in that house off of State Street in Salem Oregon in 1971.

Now, more than 45 years later, we have the opportunity to prevent such a horrible memory from taking up residence in the minds of any other children, should they, like I was, be lucky enough to survive.

I've reviewed the proposed amendments to Senate Bill 868 and I support them.

A few additional and important points:

- Background checks won't prevent people who already have guns from using them to cause harm to themselves or others, if that's their intention.
- Statistics show that the most dangerous time for a woman in an abusive relationship is when she leaves. This is real and has been borne out in the news headlines of just the last week.
- No constitutional right is completely unfettered. However, gun owners who are neither suicidal nor threatening toward others have anything to fear from this bill.
- This bill includes appeal rights for the respondent.
- It also imposes penalties for a petitioner who might use this as a means to harass the respondent. This is important in ensuring the extreme risk protection order doesn't become a weapon, itself.

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