

Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
900 Court St. NE, Salem 97301

Chair Prozanski, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of Senate Bill 868, the Extreme Risk Protection Order.

My name is Jenna Yuille, and I work for Americans for Responsible Solutions, the national gun violence prevention organization founded by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords. I grew up here in Oregon. Some of you might remember the story about my mom Cindy Yuille, who was shot and killed at the Clackamas Town Center shooting on December 11, 2012. I was 23 years old, and losing my mom was so much more difficult than I ever could have imagined.

Four years later, I never could have guessed that I would be losing my dad, too. His name was Michael Passalacqua.

I just turned 28 in February, and I have now lost not one, but both of my parents to gun violence.

I knew my dad wasn't doing too well, but I didn't know how to help him. On July 18, 2016, he went to a gun shop, and he bought a gun. I know because of the receipt I later found that was still under his bed, in the same box the gun came in.

If I had known that a tool like the Extreme Risk Protective Order was available, I would have used it, and my dad probably wouldn't have been able to go purchase a gun that day.

An Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) enables families to work with law enforcement to temporarily remove guns and prevent the purchase of new guns by individuals who pose a heightened risk of harm to themselves or others.

After my mom was murdered, I kept asking myself: How did this happen? What could have been done to prevent this? And what could be changed to make sure that this same situation doesn't keep happening again, and again to other families?

Research shows that people experiencing a crisis are much more likely to die by suicide if they have easy access to guns. Nationwide, 60 percent of all gun deaths are from suicide, and 85 percent of suicide attempts involving firearms are fatal.

My dad was one of those 85%. His suicide attempt with a gun was fatal.

Enacting ERPO would give families and loved ones an opportunity to reduce the risk of suicide for someone in crisis and provide safer circumstances for them to address the underlying causes of these dangerous behaviors.

My dad was a brilliant man who had a hard time being happy in this world, but an ERPO could have saved him. Let's give other families an effective way to do something for their loved ones who they know are struggling.

I would like to thank Senator Burdick and Senator Boquist for their leadership in introducing this important, bipartisan bill. I know that it will save lives and I urge the committee to pass this critical piece of legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jenna Yuille