

Hello,

I would like to submit written testimony in favor of SB 868.

After one of our neighbors had a mental crisis in 2015, I became well aware of the lack of ability for families to intervene when someone who is in crisis has access to weapons.

After the murder of her daughter, my neighbor's previous PTSD came back quickly. She also became quite delusional and thought the neighbors, as well as the Yamhill County Sheriffs and others, were all in the drug cartel. We live on a private road and all of the neighbors were concerned that she was a harm to herself and to us. She trespassed on my property and I became nervous about driving past her house as she had been seen pointing a gun out of the window.

Even though she had been admitted to mental health, she was still allowed to keep her weapons and even allowed to obtain a concealed weapons permit. Her partner was scared to take them from her as he thought she would react poorly. He eventually found the courage after the neighbors all got together and let him know how frightened we were. Eventually, she was able to get help in Washington while in a crisis state and was medicated before anything awful happened.

When we called the Sheriff for help and to let them know of our concerns, we were told there was nothing they could do to remove the guns from the home in a mental health crisis. This situation made me acutely aware of the need for better ability to protect people in mental health situations. I know that gun advocates are against any restrictions on weapons, but I also think others rights to live without fear of being shot by someone in a crisis should also be considered.

There is no reason someone who is in crisis ought to have access to guns, please consider voting yes on SB 868.

Thank you,
Kim

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