

Thank you Chairman Prozanski and committee members for allowing me to speak here today in support of SB 868 Extreme Risk Protection Order.

My name is Paul Kemp. I am a gun owner and our family has been directly affected by gun violence. I am also a founding board member for Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership and on the advisory committee of the Oregon Coalition for Common Sense.

An ERPO law would likely not have prevented the shooting that took Steve's life, but there are many other examples where an ERPO would have saved lives. An Oregon example is the murder of Laura Whitson and her three daughters, Sarah (6), Rachael (3) and April (6 months), by Laura's husband David Whitson. The Pulse Nightclub shooting that took 49 lives likely could have been prevented if an ERPO was in effect according to ATF Special Agent Jim Cavanaugh. The 2014 Isla Vista shooting in California that claimed 6 lives and injured 14 could have been prevented if California had an ERPO law in effect at the time. In each of these cases family members tried to intervene as the shooter had demonstrated they were a risk to themselves and others. Unfortunately, there was no legal means for a court ordered process for law enforcement to remove guns from these shooters for a court ordered time period.

Here in Oregon and across the country suicide claims a majority of deaths due to gun violence. Families need passage of SB 868 so they can legally petition the court to remove guns from those at risk of hurting themselves or others. SB 868 provides law enforcement and families a court ordered

means for temporary remove guns until those experiencing a crisis is resolved.

Over the last year I have become a volunteer for TIP (Trauma Intervention Program) which serves the Portland and Vancouver WA metro area. TIP volunteers are dispatched to assist families that have experienced a traumatic event, such as house fire, natural death, car accident and suicides. Our mission is to provide emotional first aid, as well as practical advice to surviving family members of the victim. My first experience with TIP was the day my brother-in-law Steve Forsyth was shot and killed at the Clackamas Town Center Mall in December, 2012. The TIP volunteer advice and EFA provided to my sister Carla, niece Katie and I was literally a god send. Based on that initial experience with TIP I chose to become a TIP volunteer. The link to TIP volunteering and the ERPO bill is responding to suicides committed with a gun. On these suicide calls a common thread was surviving family members wished they had done more to prevent the suicide. Trust me no one on the committee would want to respond to one of these calls. The surviving family members are traumatized by the death of a loved one and further traumatized by carnage left behind at the scene. Passage of SB 868 will provide a legal tool for families to prevent a tragic impulsive action ending in suicide by gun.

Recently Washington and California have passed similar bills allowing family, courts and law enforcement to work together to save a family life during a time of personal crisis. Too many families have dealt with the tragic consequences of not having a bill such as SB 868. Please support this legislation.

Thank You!