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Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America – Oregon Chapter
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**MEMBERS OF OREGON CHAPTER OF MOMS DEMAND ACTION
TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1551**

***Moms Travel to Salem to Press for Expanded Background Checks
on All Oregon Gun Sales***

(Portland, OR) Feb. 5, 2014 – On Thurs., Feb. 6, members of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America will participate in the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Senate Bill 1551, which requires a background check before a gun is sold or transferred to any other person, with exceptions for close family members.

The hearing comes just days after the release of a new poll by Public Policy Polling which demonstrated that 78 percent of Oregonians, including 75 percent of gun owners, support criminal background checks on every person who wants to buy a gun.

“Oregonians expect our State Senators to get tough on crime and protect public safety by requiring background checks for private and online gun sales,” said Sarah Finger McDonald, chapter leader for the Oregon chapter of Moms Demand Action. “Moms will not sit idly by as the gun lobby tries to stop this bill for the second time in two years.”

Several members of Moms Demand Action submitted written testimony for the hearing, including statements on personal experiences with gun violence; debunking the myths of a “gun registry” spread by bill opponents; and reiterating statistics which show that universal background checks cut gun deaths of law enforcement officers and domestic violence victims.

“It’s time we stop using our children’s lives as the luxury tax for not requiring background checks,” said Teresa Raiford, a survivor’s advocate for Moms Demand Action partner Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Raiford, whose 19-year-old nephew Andre Payton was killed by a suspected gang member in 2010, plans to testify on Thursday, just as she did in support of Senate Bill 700 during the 2013 Legislative Session.

“As Internet gun marketplaces expand, and as criminals and domestic abusers increasingly take advantage of the ‘private sale’ loophole, it is unconscionable that our Senators are even debating this law,” McDonald said. “It’s time to bring background checks to the Senate floor for a vote so Oregon moms can hold their representatives accountable for action on this most basic of gun safety laws.”

About Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Much like Mothers Against Drunk Driving was created to change laws regarding drunk driving, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America was created to build support for common-sense gun reforms. The nonpartisan grassroots movement of American mothers is demanding new and stronger solutions to lax gun laws and loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our children and families. In just one year, the organization has more than 130,000 members with a chapter in every state in the country. The group recently joined forces with [Mayors Against Illegal Guns](#), the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country. For more information or to get involved visit www.momsdemandaction.org. Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/MomsDemandAction or on Twitter [@MomsDemand](https://twitter.com/MomsDemand)

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